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# SUPERVISORS JOURNAL



MABELLE GLENN President, National Conference

OCTOBER, 1929

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
MUSIC SUPERVISORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND OF THE
SIX SECTIONAL CONFERENCES

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## MUSIC SUPERVISORS FOURNAL

Music for Every Child . Every Child for Music

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MUSIC SUPERVISORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND OF THE SIX SECTIONAL CONFERENCES

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## Music Supervisors Journal

Vol. XVI

ITHACA, N.Y., OCTOBER, 1929

No. 1

Official Organ of the Music Supervisors National Conference and of the Six Sectional Conferences

#### PAUL J. WEAVER, Ithaca, N.Y., Editor

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### Editorial Comment

PAUL J. WEAVER, Ithaca, N.Y., Editor

CHICAGO MARCH 24-28 As you begin your plans for the new year, don't forget to mark out in red

ink the week of March 24th-for that is the definite date of the biennial meeting of the National Conference. We are to meet again in Chicago, with headquarters at the Stevens Hotel; and that means comfortable housing, and meeting places almost entirely under one roof, for the five thousand and more who will be in attendance. Since our 1928 meeting the Stevens has added a large theatre to its equipment; and President Glenn plans that all the general sessions be held both in the ballroom and in the theatre. each speaker appearing in both rooms, each member of the conference able to get a comfortable seat where he may hear the entire program. There is no hotel in the world which can so adequately care for our needs; and those needs are many, during a busy Conference week!

Many details of the program will be announced in our next issue. Several speakers of national fame have been secured; an unusually fine music program is under way; careful arrangements are being made for easily accessible demonstration work of all types in the schools; new, live subjects will be treated by experts. The editor knows enough of Miss Glenn's plans to confidently predict the best meeting ever!

HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA Two of the principal events of the week will be the programs of the National High School

Chorus and Orchestra. Some of the details of the plans for these organizations you will find on pages 45 and 51 of this Journal; further information will be sent to you almost immediately on circulars. Mr. Maddy plans two sections of the orchestra this year, the first playing in Atlantic City for the Department of Superintendence, the second playing at our Chicago meeting. Dr. Dann is enlarging the chorus to be used this year, and announces a most welcome innovation



Captain A. R. Gish, conductor of the champion Senn High School Band is a strong booster for Conn instruments.



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—a group of songs to be sung by the audience of supervisors, from memory and without rehearsal. Those of us who remember the Conference choruses of the old days, and especially Dr. Dann's chorus at the St. Louis meeting, will welcome another chance to sing under his inspired baton.

PLEASE Your dues for the current school
READ year should be sent to the
treasurer of your sectional conference or to your State Chair-

man, and if you will send them now you will save yourself and your state committee much trouble. The names of the State Chairmen will be announced in our next issue: the treasurers are as follows: California Conference, Grace Gantt, 2707 Prince St., Berkeley, Cal.; Eastern Conference, Clarence Wells, High School, Orange, New Jersey: North Central Conference, Frank E. Percival, State Teachers College, Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Northwest Conference, Esther Jones, N. 110 Adams Street, Moscow, Idaho; Southern Conference, Raymond F. Anderson, 108 oth Avenue S., Birmingham, Alabama; Southwestern Conference. Catherine E. Strouse, State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.

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In sending in your dues, please write your name and address very clearly; many memberships go astray because we can't decipher your signatures! The fee for active membership is \$3.00; this entitles you to the JOURNAL, the Book of Proceedings and all the privileges of the Chicago meeting. The fee for contributing membership is a minimum of \$5.00; this gives you the privileges of active membership, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing an extra bit for the Conference and for the cause of music education. We're hoping for five hundred contributing memberships this year; will you do your bit to help?

SCHOOL The National Conference
CONCERTS Committee on School Concerts announces a new and
splendid project of concerts for the schools,

sponsored by the Conference itself. You will find the plan described on page 39 of this Journal, and the officers of the Conference hope you will avail yourself of the remarkable opportunities which are now open to you and your pupils.

We wish to extend our congratulations to this committee for its fine work, and especially for bringing to the schools of America such a distinguished artist and music educator as Steuart Wilson. Those of us who met him in Lausanne know him for his scholarly musicianship, his great interpretative powers, his keen wit and humor, his real spark of humanism. Welcome, Mr. Wilson, to America!

1929 BOOK OF
PROCEEDINGS
Those of you who were active members of the Conference last year will

very soon receive the 1929 Book of Proceedings, which has just come from the press. When the editor saw the first copy he realized why the candle burned late so many nights last spring! There are over seven hundred pages, reporting all of the meetings of the affiliated sectional conferences, the National Research Council and the Music Discussion Group at the meeting of the Department of Superintendence-a veritable mine of information on all phases of school music education. If you were not an active member of the Conference last year, you may order a copy of the Book from us; the price is \$2.50 plus postage. Californians should note that their affiliation with the National begins this current season: they will not automatically receive this issue of the Book unless they also joined the National last year.

## STATE A Reserve CERTIFICATION Bulletin

A Research Council Bulletin on State Certification of Teachers

and Supervisors of Music was announced last spring, and has been published during the summer as Bulletin No. 11. Our practise is to print this type of bulletin in the Journal; but in this case the material is



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mainly tabular and the plates are not suitable for magazine use. The first part of the report gives the detailed requirements for certification in the forty-eight states; this is followed by suggestions addressed to certification authorities, formulated by the Council after a study of existing practices. The bulletin appears in the 1929 Book of Proceedings, or may be ordered from the editor at 15c the copy.

OFFICERS At its meeting at the Milwaukee session of the North Central Conference

last spring, the Music Exhibitors Association elected the following officers for the coming year: President, J. Tatian Roach; Vice-President, W. Otto Miessner; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Stanton; Members of the Executive Board, Franklin Dunham, David C. King, H. N. White, Earl L. Hadley. The Conference is greatly indebted to the exhibitors Association for one of the most valuable educational assets of our meetings, the displays of music and instruments; and we welcome the cooperation of this new official group of old friends.

### THE LAUSANNE CONFERENCE

One hundred fifty one Americans wished, early last August, that

all the rest of the American supervisors might be enjoying with them the Lausanne meeting of the Anglo-American Music Conference. The whole scheme had been hazy in our minds; the difficulties in planning an international meeting had been enormous; none of us knew whether anyone else would actually be there or not! And when the four hundred twentieth attendant registered, Percy Scholes and Arthur Searle had to pinch each other to make sure that it was really true! Now the meeting is history, and we may calmly look back at that joyous week and take stock of what happened.

It was tremendously worth while! For the first time in history, music educators traveled from the four corners of the earth to compare notes, to give and take suggestions, to get help and inspiration from each other. The spirit of the whole meeting was one of the most frank and open cordiallity. If we misunderstood each other, we laughed at our misunderstanding! Many Americans came away not grasping the British scheme



#### THE STEERING COMMITTEE AT LAUSANNE

First row: Mrs. Ruth Haller Ottaway, Paul J. Weaver, Wm. Arms Fisher, Ernest Fowles, Mabelle Glenn, Percy A. Scholes, Mrs. Henry Dyer, Mrs. Wm. Arms Fisher, George H. Gartlan, Miss Nancy Guilford.

Second row: Will Earhart, A. Forbes Milne, Wm. C. Mayfarth, Clement Spurling, Arthur Searle, Prof. F. H. Shera, W. H. Kerridge, Steuart Wilson, Chas. G. Hicks, C. Stanley Wise, Dr. E. C. Bairstow, Hubert Foss.



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or at least so says Will Earhart when he writes of

#### "The Blue Book"

"The Golden Book of Favorile Songs and the Gray Book of Favorile Songs, combined and serviceably bound in cloth, and further enriched by a supplement containing fourteen negro spirituals that were not included in either of the separate books, constitute this excellent community song collection. Since the two books separately are so widely known it is not necessary to review here the contents of the combination. The new book, however, makes so favorable an impression upon me that I am inclined to revise my mathematics and say that the sum of 1 and 1 is in this case at least 3."

The Blue Book of Favorite Songs contains all of the songs in both the "Golden Book" and the "Gray Book" and in addition a supplement of popular spirituals. Including this supplement, the "Blue Book" contains 326 different selections, every one of which has been carefully edited and arranged to make it suitable for general assembly and chorus use. The list of material includes something for every grade and every occasion, and covers all types of songs, from lullabies to selections from oratorios. Many of the most desirable numbers are not to be found in any other assembly song book.

Because durability was one of the reasons for the demand for this new song book, it has been printed on a heavier paper than is practicable in the low-priced separate editions. The margins are wider, and the binding is regular thread sewed. The covers are made of standard textbook cloth, appropriately lettered in gold.

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of things, and many British not grasping the American: but each gave to the other and each learned from the other-and no-one thought he could learn everything in one week-there must be an excuse for another meeting!

That another such meeting would be inevitable was apparent from the outset. It is already under way, for the summer of 1031, and will probably again be held in Switzerland-definite announcements later. of course; in the meantime, you may as well begin to save up your pennies for a year from next summer.

One of the most tangible proofs of the permanence of the international conference idea was the presence at Lausanne of six official representatives from German music organizations, who came with overtures looking toward the inclusion of other nationalities. Such a scheme is definitely contemplated in our plans, and at the 1931 meeting we expect to have the beginnings of what may well become a broadly international organization.

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To Percy Scholes goes most of the credit for the whole thing. It was he who suggested the meeting, and it was he who overcame the initial obstacles. He and his

charming wife bore most of the drudgery of preparation for and care of the meeting; but when the last train took the last members away at the end of the week, when most hosts would have been headed for a sanitarium, Mr. and Mrs. Scholes were on the platform waving a cheery "au revoir in 1931!" It augurs well for the future of the organization that Mr. Scholes has been willing to continue in his general secretaryship.

The conference was most fortunate in having Sir Henry Hadow as chief presiding Before Lausanne we had known him only as an eminent scholar with an incredibly long list of mystic initials appended to his name; at Lausanne we became acquainted with him as one whose sparkling wit and keen humor and sympathetic tact permeated the whole group with a warm feeling of understanding and good fellowship; after Lausanne, we shall always think of him as "the inimitable Sir Henry."

Space limitations prevent our discussing many of the other interesting people whom we came to know during the week, but we must at least mention the conducting of Dr. Bairstow and Dr. Whittaker, the singing of Steuart Wilson, the address of Edwin Evans, the demonstration of M. Dalcroze.



PART OF THE LAUSANNE CONFERENCE ON THE STEPS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE

First row: Percy Scholes, Mabelle Glenn, Sir Henry Hadow, Paul J. Weaver, Alex Sainsbury, Harvey Grace, Clement Spurling, Nancy Guilford, Charles G. Hicks.

Second row: Mrs. Ruth Haller Ottaway, Mrs. Wm. Arms Fisher, Wm. Arms Fisher, Ernest Fowles, Leo Rich Lewis, Will Earhart, G. E. Linfoot, Hubert Foss, A. Forbes Milne, W. G. Whittaker, Helen McBride, James Frances Cook, Inex Field Damon, etc., Wm. C. Mayfarth above Mrs. Fisher; Wm. C. Carl above Mr. Fisher, Dr. Reichenbach above Mr. Linfoot, dozens of others whom you may recognise!

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In the absence of Dr. Damrosch, Miss Glenn presided at part of the business meetings, and the duties of presiding at general sessions when the speakers were British were divided between Miss Glenn, George H. Gartlan, Dr. Wm. C. Carl, Dr. Will Earhart and Paul J. Weaver.

The British chairmen of sectional meetings were as scheduled in the announcements made last spring; some last-minute adjustments were necessary among the American chairmen, however, the list finally including Miss Glenn, Dr. Earhart, Dean Wm. C. Mayfarth, Ernest G. Hesser, Prof. Leo Rich Lewis, George H. Gartlan, Arthur H. J. Searle and Helen McBride.

All of this sounds terribly business-like; as a matter of fact, we did have a busy week of it, with long hours of work each day. But to be in Switzerland without some real vacationing would have been inhuman, and we managed to find some time for pleasure each day. On Sunday afternoon we were all the guests of Sir Henry Lunn, who, with Lady Lunn, attended the first part of the meeting; on a specially chartered steamboat we made the trip around wonderful Lake Geneva, with Percy Scholes as general information bureau. On Tuesday the entire official group was entertained at a beautiful luncheon by the Syndic of Lausanne, M. Rosset—one of the many courtesies shown the conference by this charming gentleman and his city. On the final day over a hundred and fifty of us took the excursion to the Grand St. Bernard Pass. Each day we had some freedom in the afternoon, and it was not uncommon to see groups of members at the lake shore, or exploring the quaint side streets and shops, or even going to the public market for a bun and a fat piece of native

We were there from all over the world. Every corner of the United States was represented. The bulk of the British members came, of course, from England and Scotland, but there were members present from eight other parts of the Empire—Wales, Irish

Free State, Ulster, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon. At the final banquet a special table seated members from all these countries and from Germany and Switzerland—a tangible proof of our geographical make-up. And we all sang our national anthem together, to the one tune—My Country 'tis of thee, God save our gracious King, O monts independants—differing in words but in music all united.

It is impossible, for financial reasons, to publish the proceedings of the whole meeting. However, many of the principal papers are to be published in the Journal during the course of the current year, starting out in this issue with those by Mr. Scholes and Dr. Saleeby. After each paper there was general discussion, which often proved to be most interesting and stimulating. In fact, the informal parts of the week seemed to be the most enjoyable parts of all, and the general feeling was that the sectional groups, with their intimate discussions on practical problems, were particularly valuable.

Early in the week the conference elected six members-at-large as an addition to the general committee which handled the immediate plans and which considered the future destinies of the association. Those elected were Mrs. James Dyer of Australia, Miss Nancy Guilford and Mr. W. H. Kerridge of London, Mrs. Wm. Arms Fisher of Boston, Prof. A. E. Heacox of Oberlin and Mr. Arthur Shepherd of Cleveland.

The work of planning the next meeting was put in the hands of English and American Executive Committees, which were chosen as follows: for Great Britain, Percy A. Scholes (Chairman), Harvey Grace, A. Forbes Milne and W. H. Kerridge (Secretary); for America, Paul J. Weaver (Chairman and Secretary), Mabelle Glenn (President, M.S.N.C.), Mrs. Ruth Haller Ottaway (President N.F.M.C.) and Wm. Arms Fisher (President, M.T.N.A.). Each committee has power to add to its number as the plans for the 1931 meeting progress.

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#### GOOD AND BAD IN MUSIC

An Attempt to Solve One of the Educationist's Biggest Problems

PERCY A. SCHOLES

Editor's note: This paper was presented at the Lausanne Conference. Mr. Scholes needs no introduction to Journal readers, who remember most happily his visit to the Chicago Conference. At Lausanne Mr. Scholes was not simply the scholarly music educationist, but the host, the general secretary, the errand boy, the everything-at-once! Those of us who saw him in action there will always feel our hearts expand when we think of him.—P. J. W.

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What is "Good Music? Nobody can say. Yet everybody must admit that good and bad do exist, for it would be very odd if of all the things of life music were the only one without quality. Moreover we all know compositions we are sure are good, compositions we are sure are bad and compositions about the value of which we are not sure at all, feeling that we need further intimacy before we can know our minds.

So far then there is no quarrel amongst this company. We are all agreed that "bad" and "good" are terms that can be applied to music as they can be applied to pictures or literature or houses or food.

But to define "bad" and "good" in clear, unmistakable terms baffles us. If anyone asks us whether a particular composition is "bad" or "good" we can give a pretty decided opinion, but if he asks us our reason we shall have to think a bit; and if he asks us for a criterion he can apply to the world's music in general we begin to hum and haw and in the end probably tell him there's no rule. Then, if he is a very patient man and we have an hour or two before us, we can go on to discuss particular compositions and find out their characteristics. But it will be noticeable that in general we make up our minds first as to whether a composition is bad or good and then justify it by analysis after, which practice may to our questioner look like putting the cart before the horse but yet can be justified on sound psychological grounds.

Suppose we put before that man two figures, one of Bach and one of P. A. Scholes (who in his student period used for a time to write one a day and could perhaps find a relic or two of that period somewhere in his lumber room.)

At a first playing through of the two fugues we decide that one is good and the other pretty bad—I won't say which!

Perhaps the subject of the one is stronger. But as soon as we use that word the enquirer, if he's as maliciously determined as I've imagined him, begins to ask what we mean by "stronger". And then we point to the respective curves of the two subjects and show how one of them flabbily hangs about certain notes whilst the other goes straight to a mark-probably reaching its highest or climactic note only once and then descending from it and hence not cheapening its And we analyse the respective rhythms of the two subjects and find that in the space of its bar or two one has by subtle refinements acquired about twice as much rhythmic interest as the other.

And then, playing a passage or two here and there, we show that the part-writing of the one is freer, less constrained, then the part-writing of the other. The three or four or five parts seem just to go their own way yet fit together perfectly all the time; whereas in the other case though the parts fit together they have plainly had to be cajoled into doing so.

Then the key contrasts are better managed in the one than the other.

Then again, just as in the subject itself there was one high spot, so in the fugue as a whole (the good fugue) there is probably one high spot—a point of real climax somewhere near the end, after which the fugue declines in force, but not in workmanship, and sinks at last to a dignified end.

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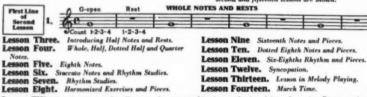
Introduction

A concise explanation of the author's ideas, so they may be better understood by the teacher, instructor and student.

Advice to the Student

Valuable advice given to the student for the study of his instrument.

Lesson Two. A complete explanation of this lesso and the other lessons are given. To show the gradual progress of these lessons the first line of each of the second and fifteenth lessons are shown.



Lesson Fourteen. March Time. son Fifteen. A concert waltz, illustrates the note combinations to be found in such music. By comparing this line of music with the first line of lesson 2, printed above, it will be seen how gradually the course progresses from the first to the last lesson. Lesson Fifteen.

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Lesson Sixteen. Seven Major Scoles for Unison Practice Last Page. A programme Suggested for First Concert. Alto Saxophon
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Baritone Saxo
Altos-Horns
C Flute Bb Cornets-Trumpets (Conductor) Db Piccoln Eb Clarinet Obse & C Saxophone Baritone T. C. Bb Bass T. C. Trombone T. C. Eb Bass Trombone B. C. B Bb Base

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About the good fugue there is a perfect logical sense. Everything seems to follow what has gone before as one phrase of a well-thought-out argument follows another. And, indeed, skill in logic is half the art of composition. Beethoven sometimes throws logic to the winds. For a moment he is deliberately illogical. He is engaged in a steady argument and suddenly leaps out of it into an unrelated digression. But we feel purpose in this, and purposeful repudiation of logic is a sort of logic in itself.

So there is one of the characteristics of good music—unity, variety, progression from point to point, all those things which we can describe as music's logic. And if a composition has these qualities you generally, as I hinted, feel them first and find them after.

Now, much bad music is deficient in logic. It may not be definitely lacking in a sense of forward progression, in variety-yet-unity of material and so forth, but it doesn't make its points strongly. A lot of schoolroom music (I mean music written specially for the schoolroom) is like that—a very flabby sort of self-expression, and more "put together" than grown, mechanical rather than organic.

Much of this music has passages that could be cut out without being missed or without in any way weakening the composition. Such music is poor music.

A masterpiece is always concise. Where it is not, it is so much the less a masterpiece. The pointless introduction of passages that have no special meaning and the useless repetition of passages are common weaknesses.

I think one's sense of what is good and bad in music can be enormously strengthened by a very detailed analysis of a large number of compositions that all the world has long accepted as good. Try to see why a fine composer has written a certain effective passage in a certain way and you'll learn to detect passages that are not written in the way they should be.

I have been astonished during the last two years, in making a close analysis of various compositions for the Audiographic Series of the Æolian Company, to find in how many cases a composition that has maintained its popularity over a long course of years has evidently done so largely by its close economy and relentless logic. It is almost impossible to find a long-lived piece that is not closely logical. The hearers have not realised or even thought about that quality, but that is largely the basis of their continued enjoyment of the composition.

A lot of bad music is like rhetoric without common sense—a mere flux of uncontrolled feeling.

So what I call the logical sense is a definite feature in good music.

And another feature (perhaps it ought to have come first—and I did just allude to it) is strong subject matter. Play merely the opening measures of Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas and without going farther you feel the man's a master. Every one has purpose. It plunges you right into the depths head over heels.

Compare Bacon's essays. They do the same. Every one of them grips you with its very first words. For instance the essay called *Of Truth*—"What is truth? said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer." Or the essay *Of Marriage and Single Life*—"He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief." Or the essay *Of Empire*—"It is a miscrable state of mind to have few things to desire and many things to fear. And yet that commonly is the case with kings."

And so on. At the very outset of a sonata of Beethoven or an essay of Bacon you realise that the man is going to talk strong sense and not to mumble platitudes. The very opening assures you of a coming logical treatment. Something is propounded and so forcefully that you feel confident in its also being sensibly discussed.

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Now those qualities of strength, logic, common sense, are vital to music.

I could for a long time go on instancing other qualities of good music. I should like in particular to try to define beauty (I couldn't succeed but it is good fun to try.) I should like to talk of a composition as the expression of emotion and to talk of worthy and less worthy emotions and manner of expressing emotion. But if I went on all day I couldn't completely and satisfactorily define goodness in music—nor could you.

Now surely this question of taste does matter. I dare to say, frankly, that it matters more than anything else—that I, selfishly, have chosen for myself the most important question before the conference.

We may teach our pupils to sing perfectly at sight, but if they're going to be content for the rest of their lives to sing rubbish it profiteth them nothing.

We can teach them to play the piane with good technique and expression, but if they are going to be content to play potboilers it profiteth them nothing.

No, that's too strong. They have at any rate an innocent amusement at their finger's ends; but is *that* all you set out to give them?

I maintain that the first object of the literature lesson should be to give a training in taste and the first aim of the music lesson the very same. If we perfect all our educational methods and leave out that we've miserably failed.

We should be very sturdy about this matter and expect our pupils to be sturdy, too. I don't want to use any vague expressions about music, "the elevating power of the art", and all that. But I do say that there is something humiliating, subtly degrading, for us and our pupils in the toleration of music the literary counterpart of which would never pass muster in another department of the school. For a man to go through life uncritically accepting half-baked argument or weakly sentimental art is not good for him or for the world. I can't explain it but I feel it in my very bones that the man who likes cheap painting or cheap

fiction or cheap music, though he may be a kind husband and father, is not so good a citizen as he who loves the best, tolerates the second best and detests the weak and foolish or the deliberately commonplace made to sell.

I know I'm begging questions all the time and I can't help it, but I appeal to you all on the grounds of analogy; and these are the grounds on which, if need be, you must appeal to your school principals and your school committees. All these people admit the principle of good and bad in some of the activities of life or perhaps in one of the arts of which they happen to have genuine experience. That being so, they must admit the principle of good and bad in music and must leave it to you, as their musical expert, to decide which is which and to choose the school repertory accordingly.

And for this high task you must equip yourself—laboriously if need be. Nothing on earth can be so important to the teacher of music as a taste in music and nothing on earth is so much to be desired in music pupils as that their studies should, imperceptibly and unknown to them perhaps, provide them with a standard of artistic judgment.

Let the British beware; the Americans are in front of them at present in organisation. The universal standardised supervisor system is miles ahead of anything we have in Britain. Their orchestras beat ours into a cocked hat. We have little positively bad music in our schools but a certain amount of weak music-generally specially written as "school songs" or "pianoforte teaching Some day the Americans will awake to the importance of fine music and fine music only; and then, since they have the organisation waiting, in the twinkling of an eye (or a little longer) all will be changed. Their school music will be expected to conform to standards. At first some will do so slavishly and without full understanding, but in a few years they'll all have trained their taste and once again Britain will be in the van.

#### 4 NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST AND MERIT 4

A VERITABLE NOVELTY FOR S-A-B A DAYIN VENICE, by Ethelbert Nevin, arranged for Soprano, Alto and Bass with melody in Bass, by PAUL BLISS.

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What a danger there is of our being left behind I realised when I read my friend Weaver's fine paper on "The Cultivation of Discrimination" read at the Wichita meeting of the Southwestern Conference.\* Weaver was really fierce with the Southwesterners at Wichita! He told them roundly:

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"The chief concern of all music education is the cultivation of discrimination. The process naturally starts with the teacher; unless he has good taste in music, unless he can discriminate between the good and the bad in music, he has absolutely no right to teach the subject—he is doing himself an injustice, and he is giving the children something which is much worse than no instruction at all."

Towards the end of the paper Weaver broke out again (He was in a Southern State and I wonder they didn't lynch him!).

"In my opinion the majority of our music teachers are satisfied with music which accomplishes immediate purposes but which is short-lived and worthless in the long run. But, really, music which will not stand the test of time, the test of constant use and constant repetition, is not merely worthless it is worse than worthless; it is actually bad. Our market to-day is flooded with music which isn't worth the paper it is written on. Last week I examined fifty songs which had been sent to me by publishers; I threw away forty-five, and kept five in my library as being worth future use. In 1925, 22,500 compositions were sent to Washington for copyrighting; of those 7500 were actually copyrighted that year, and most of the 7500 are already dead and buried. Dr. Carl Engel, chief of the music division of the Library of Congress, estimates that at least 80% of the music published in America is worthless trash--'not only worthless, but harmful trash; for a great deal of it

<sup>a</sup>See the May 1929 issue of this magazine (page 41 ff) or the 1929 Book of Proceedings, M. S. N. C., page 363.

acts like a poison that devitalizes us musically, that retards the musical advancement of our nation.'

"You will rarely if ever find a school music book which does not contain some good music; and you will rarely if ever find one which does not contain some bad music. For this very reason, I am opposed to the exclusive adoption of any one book or series of books, for the teacher who is doing a good job has to use material from many sources. The music teacher or supervisor must be able to distinguish between the good and the bad, if he would be a successful and honest teacher.

In a similar manner must the piano teacher or the voice teacher or the violin teacher choose the worth-while music from the great mass of available material. A mediocre piece may seem sufficient for some immediate need; but if you will search and if you will study the literature you will always find a really fine piece which will be much better for the immediate need and which will leave a lasting 'good taste' in your mouth and in your ear."

As a sort of semi-adopted American I want to support Weaver's appeal with all my power. I believe it pains me more to see faults in things American than to see them in things British, for whilst Britain I know, so that nothing I find there shocks me. America (most unfortunately for myself) I've idealised as the Land of Progress; so that when I find President Hoover in his first public address after inauguration stating that there are twenty times as many people lawlessly killed in the United States as in Great Britain (in proportion to the population) and that every year 9000 people are murdered, or Weaver telling you that "the majority of music teachers are satisfied with music that is shortlived and worthless," it's like a stab. I can't personally check the truth of Hoover's statement as to the danger of being murdered in the U.S.A. I've never been murdered there (yet!). But

## LEARNING TO LISTEN

Bv

#### ELIZABETH F. HARRIS

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The lessons are equally well adapted to class-teaching or to the individual papil, to public or private schools; to chilo. In who are studying music as a matter of culture, as well as those who are learning to play on a musical instrument. They will be found of value, not only to beginners, but to children who have acquired some knowledge of an instrument, yet who have great need of a general review of the elements of music.

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I have evidence that Weaver is right, for I'm apparently now accepted as a sort of Honorary Supervisor and music publishers have me on their mailing lists with the result that I get free samples of school music (sometimes understamped.) I don't say it's much worse than some that comes to me from British publishers, but I do say that in our country we have not the amazing phenomenon of third rate school cantatas issued with first rate endorsement—the approval of some of the most honoured leaders in the musical educational profession.

Still, after all, I've already expressed my conviction that if we give you time you'll go right ahead of us in standards of taste as you have undoubtedly done in organisation and in the securing of due recognition for music by your school and university authorities.

Right there I just want to clinch a nail. The very fact that you have this recognition, that music is with you accepted as a valuable part of a liberal education, as, alas, it is not yet with us in the same measure, that fact imposes on you a double duty. To whom much is given, from him shall much be required.

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You have got to make your music worthy of the high place it has been given in your educational scheme, and we, on our part, inspired by you, have got to fight until music is given an equally honourable place in our educational scheme. We both have our work cut out, but with good will and courage ten years should see both tasks accomplished. The big failure, it seems to me, is with music written ad hoc. You are making a splendid use of the classics, but when publishers and composers set out to provide you with music specially for school use they underestimate your capacity for appreciating the best. They write down to your supposed needs and publish down to them. They don't give you literature but a cheap journalism.

So far I've been talking about the kind of music we should all of us use—the best and the best only: no excuse for the second best! And now I want to allude to the steps to be taken to widen the listening powers of the pupils so that of the best little or nothing should be beyond them.

There are two Linds of "best" music (Weaver makes this distinction clear)—that which any child can enjoy straight away and that which takes a bit of understanding.

In the treatment of the latter you Americans have led the world. I don't say you were the first to recognise the fact that there is an art of listening to be learnt, just as there's an art of composition and an art of performance, but I do say that you American music teachers were the first people systematically to exploit the subject.

Ninety-nine years ago the Frenchman, Fétis, wrote a book to help the listener. It was called "La Musique mise a la portée de tout le monde" ("Music brought within the Reach of All.") It went through three editions in French and was translated into German, English, Spanish and Russian. I have a copy of the English edition and it is the earliest book I have ever come across in any language that recognises the listener as a person requiring instruction.

Fétis came to England to give a series of lectures under the same title at our Royal Academy of Music. He gave only one, I think, and then went back to Paris. I don't know why. Probably we weren't ready for him. Most likely the highbrows spiffed.

After Fétis I imagine the subject dropped—until you Americans revived it, under the name of Music Appreciation.

By the way, who invented that name? It's proved a curse! All our British high-brows persist in misunderstanding it. Perversely some of them insist on taking it to mean that classes are held to tell pupils "this is good" or "that is bad", which, of course, would be a pretty useless proceeding,

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IT is a great tribute to the beautiful and thrilling effects possible with the clear ringing voices of children that a composer of such high attainments as writing of a cantata for a school chorus, his "Bobo-links" being a previous notable Carl Busch has written this cantata. It is not his first inks" being a previous notable success in this field"To a Katydid' is a well-written short cantata using
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World's Largest Stock **Examination Privileges** Discounts to Profession for the days of "telling" young people anything are past. And they all find a very academic flavour about the term and imagine the appreciation teacher as a dull pedant.

Now of course the teacher needn't and shouldn't be anything of the sort. He should simply be a trained teacher (i.e. a genuine practical working psychologist, rather a rare specimen, I admit) with an overwhelming love and sound knowledge of music.

His love of music will run his teaching motor for him and his practical psychology will turn the steering wheel.

In Britain professional musicians, and above all music critics, still very commonly run down Music Appreciation. Yet they themselves all give and demand appreciation lessons. A good annotated programme for an orchestral concert (generally written by some professional music critic) is nothing but a printed appreciation lesson. George Grove's fine book on Beethoven's Symphonies, in which all British musicians have graduated, is a wonderful course of appreciation lessons. A conscientious music critic is always pleased if before a first performance the composer will come and play the main themes to him on the piano, and then run through the whole work a few times-nothing but an authorative appreci-So why run down Music ation lesson! Appreciation?

The business of the school teacher of Music Appreciation is merely to find out what are the obstacles that impede progress towards the understanding of the bigger masterpieces and, one by one, to remove those obstacles.

One obstacle is the one implied just now the complexity of a long movement, a complexity that often resolves into simplicity under a little study.

To some of you Switzerland is new. You have never been here before and have never studied its geography. If you begin to go over the map inch by inch it will take a long

time to learn what there is in the country. But if somebody says "Look here now! Here's one range of smaller mountains, the Jura; there's another, the Alps; between them there's a high central plain", and does this with the map before your eyes, at once the muddle begins to clear. Then he points out that there are three river systems-the Rhine system flowing towards the North Sea, the Rhone system flowing towards the Mediterranean and the Ticino-Po system flowing towards the Adriatic. A bit more of the muddle has evaporated. "got" the mountains and the rivers and with these necessarily the lakes, which may be looked on as basins in the mountains or widenings of the rivers. Then come the towns which have grown up as a result of the distribution of mountains, rivers and lakes. And so step by step he can clear your mind for you until no muddle remains. Strictly speaking your friend can't teach you anything; all he can do is to remove obstacles to your learning, which later you must do yourself. And that's worth doing -with geography or history or languages or music—the first obstacles in all these cases being confusion.

Another obstacle, in the case of music, is that of an unaccustomed idiom. Perhaps the pupil's ear is accustomed to 19th century harmonies and when (say) 16th century or 20th century harmonies try to enter it they find an obstructed entrance.

When such occurs a mere few words of sympathy may help—by inducing patience. Or a little historical explanation may have a similar effect. Or a biographical fact or two tending to show that the music comes from a man and (despite its strangeness) not from a monster, may be what is needed.

All this is appreciation teaching. Doubtless there are hours of bad appreciation teaching going on every week both in Britain and America—but so there are of mathematical teaching or the teaching of Latin, and those are not new subjects but





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subjects with a long teaching tradition behind them.

Don't let us be for a moment discouraged by the crusted tory aristocrats of Old England. Music is for everybody and if everybody can't take it its our duty to find out why and to do what is needful.

Now as to Modern Music. Obviously the idiom of music must constantly change. The music of which we most of us know anything is the product of only about 400 years—and the world, as a man-inhabited island in space, is 30,000 to 35,000 years old. Men are mad who suppose that the musical art of that brief period of 400 years is to be the musical art of all time. God forbid that John Sebastian Bach should ever die, or Beethoven or Wagner! But they can't be the last great composers, nor can their idioms be the last the world is ever to know.

The process of learning a new idiom is a bit painful to most of us, but we've got to go through it, as we've got to go through it, as we've got to go through so many new experiences nowadays. Many here will, I hope, see another half-century's development. Let them keep up their courage and the Lord be with them! Since the present century opened music has undergone such changes as it never previously did—unless in the corresponding portion of the 17th. century, but I doubt if these changes were anything like as great as those of either the past or the coming fifty years.

To know, with any sense of certainty, what is good and what is bad when the idiom is strange is, to the reflective man, impossible. But by patience we shall grasp the idiom and begin to find out the quality of the music. Nine-tenths of the music of the next fifty years will be ephemeral; it is so in every age, and in an age so experimental it is doubly sure to be so. But the one-tenth (if it is so much) will repay us.

Surely everybody has had the thrilling experience of learning a new musical idiom and at least assessing the value of works written in it which at first sounded like a mere jumble of noise. I, an old grey-haired

man in his early fifties, can remember when the Debussy idiom utterly baffled me; so did the Scriabin idiom; so did the early Stravinsky idiom. All these are now familiar and so far as we are concerned the question of good and bad begins to settle itself. How far to go in introducing modern music to your pupils I cannot tell you. Every teacher must settle the question for himself. Probably he'll generally find he can go further than he at first thought.

But here's a duty thrust upon us—to make a real acquaintance with as much contemporary music as we can, to sort it out, to make up our minds which is good and to put some of that before our pupils.

I regretfully admit I've not fulfilled the promise of the title I gave my paper. I've not "attempted to solve one of the Educationalist's biggest problems". On the contrary I've told him to solve it himself. But I have told him what, in my opinion, is the way to solve that part of the problem that concerns his own taste, viz., to make acquaintance with abundance of the admittedly best music of the world, and to listen to other music that comes his way, with the standards of the best in his memory and with what I may call a sympathetic suspicion.

And I have told him what in my opinion is the best way to solve the problem of the training of the pupils' taste, viz., to put before them nothing but what he is convinced is essentially beautiful and significant—with a special care as to recently published music deliberately written for school use.

But the most important thought I've uttered is the one with which I hope all of you were immediately ready to agree—In musical education, *Taste Matters*.

The technique of an instrument or the voice, the technique of combined performance in chorus or orchestra, the technique of vocal or instrumental sight-reading—these are all necessary. But in order of importance, Taste Before Technique.

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#### ON MUSIC AS MEDICINE\*

DR. CALEB WILLIAMS SALEEBY, F.R.S.E. (Founders Chairman of the Sunlight League of Great Britain)

[Editor's note: When lecturing on this subject at the First Angle American Music Conference in Lausanne, August 3, 1929, Dr. Saleeby followed very much the argument of this broadcast of four years previously; but was able to state that every bed in the voluntary hospitals of London, numbering far into five figures, has now, thanks to the service of The Daily News, a pair of wireless headphones hanging beside it, and this example has been widely followed in the provinces, everywhere, with vast benefit to patients and staff.—P. J. W.]

Where shall we spend our holidays? That is the topic for most of us. Topos means a place—as in the word topography. Which is the place that will give us most joy? But for hundreds of thousands of invalids there is no place but bed: and for only too many the one topic that matters now is this:—When will there be a vacant bed for me in hospital?

So now let us talk about the folk for whom there is no place but bed, and let us see how we ought to provide for them there, and how we may hope to get them out of bed, consequently, to make room for others in need.

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Time was when to provide a bed at all, where the sick could die in peace, was the best that age could imagine. Then came medical science, born again in the Renaissance of learning, and doctors gave medicines to their patients. But we have not yet regained the great vision of the Greek Father of Medicine, Hippocrates, who saw his patients as not merely diseased bodies, but as human beings, and so sought to treat them with everything good for mind, and soul and body. To that noble ideal we are now returning.

Something we may call the mania for wanting to swallow medicine is said to be a feature that distinguishes mankind from the lower animals. (Another is that man, unlike the lower animals, eats when he is not hungry). By medicine we mean something obviously not food or drink, and yet to be

\*A broadcast from the London station, in July 1925, to the British Isles.

swallowed, as only food or drink should be. The doctor who prescribes a drug without taste or odour must actually add something, obviously "medicinal" to nose and palate, in order to convince the patient that he is being effectively treated.

This is literally poisonous nonsense. The word medicine has become degraded. We say that a man who is paying a penalty must "take his medicine"—meaning something nasty. The word means healing (medicare-to heal) which means to make whole and to make holy. It is, therefore, noble in origin, but defiled by our vulgar, puerile and superstitious misuse of it, so that a life-long lover of music, having uttered the words "Music and Medicine" feels that he has almost said something which suggests that music is unpleasant.

Nineteen years ago I wrote, in a book on health, a chapter on the uses of music, partly based upon my recollections of the evident stimulation and refreshment which the patients in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh used to derive from the ward concerts. My point of view was that of the doctor and singer. Lying on one's back after being knocked down by a motor car, one sees the matter from another point of view, and I wish to make my own experience useful for others who must lie so. Already I had drawn attention to the value of "wireless" for invalids, little guessing that I was about to learn the facts of the matter in the most effective possible way.

For many weeks the wireless was a priceless boon to me—even more valuable than the small artificial sun which played on my leg, knee and hand, and that is saying a good deal. It served me by day and by night. Always the best of sleepers hitherto, not dreaming once in a twelvemonth, I feared the nights after days of inaction indoors, but the wireless kept me company

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until eleven, and even midnight on Saturdays. I do not know how I could have endured that experience without such a boon. If that was the service to a patient who expected to be perfectly well in due course, what of those who are bedridden for months or years, perhaps without hope of recovery? And what of those whose physical condition will sway the balance either toward life or death? There can be but one answer. Again what of the anodyne action of music and the rest that the aether carries to us if we have the means to receive it?

My surgeon carefully defined my local feelings as "gross discomfort" rather than pain, and he was right. Acute pain, such as the dental surgeon must inflict if he tries to remove a nerve which is not deadened, is one thing, gross discomfort is another. For acute pain we may have recourse to drugs, at a cost. Listening to music, what need had I of drugs; what time had I to notice "gross discomfort"?

On inquiry I learned that there exists, entirely unadvertised, a Children's Wireless Hospital Fund, which provides this most exquisite and blessed medicine for sick children. I had to worm out the facts, for the British Broadcasting Company feel some reluctance in asking for subscriptions to something which they alone can supply. Seven children's hospitals in or near London have been supplied, beginning with the most famous in the Empire, the Sick Children's Hospital in Great Ormond Street. service in all consists of loud speakers for convalescent wards. It should be possible to show statistically that such provision effects even monetary saving by shortening convalescence, and allows beds to be emptied and filled more frequently.

Every cot and bed in every hospital and nursing home should be equipped with a pair of head-phones, for the use of the individual patient as and when required. The divine arts of music and musical speech are never more divine than when they soothe and cheer and heal the broken, the weary, the frightened and the sleepless. Wireless

can bring them to the neediest ears. Let those of us whom the wireless delights and serves at so little cost think of long, miserable hours, endured by hundreds of thousands of invalids, mostly poor, to whom we owe some practical charity by way of thanks for our own lives and retained or recovered health.

All good new things are old. There is nothing new under the sun. And yet even poor Jeremiah, in his entations, said that the Lord's mercies are new every morning. Tomorrow morning's sunlight will be new, but the sun has been shining a long time. Last year on two occasions, I reminded you that the use of sunlight to cure disease is as old as Hippocrates, who practised four hundred years before Christ. The use of music to cure disease is older than that. It is at least as old as the lovely story of young David and the heavy hearted king, Saul, possessed with an evil spirit of remorse and fear. "David took an harp. and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshened and was well and the evil spirit departed from him." Much good music. filling life and joy, has mankind owed to the Jews from that date until our own. As for the Greeks, the other great race of antiquity, we all know the story of Orpheus.

No doubt the ancients, both Jews and Greeks, especially thought of music as having a magical power against evil spirits. In one of the loveliest of all operas,—it should be lovely for its theme is the power of music. even against Death-there is a scene where Orpheus descends to the lower world to find his lost love, Eurydice. But first he must pass the portals guarded by hostile, bitter, cruel beings, of devilish temper. What an opportunity for the composer. Gluck took it. Into the mouth and the harp of Orpheus he put music so divinely beautiful that we are not surprised when the devilish spirits are humanized and made kindly and angelic so that they gave welcome and aid to the Singer in his search for his beloved.

We change the words, nowadays; instead

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of talking about evil spirits or devils we say obsessions or complexes, but these really are evil spirits inhabiting our souls or obstructing our way to those we love; and they need exorcising by the divinely healing art of David and Orpheus now as ever. Fear is a devil and many of the sick are possessed of it and cannot sleep for it: the hag sits upon their widely open eyes. Music has natural magic against her, many's the time. How then, for we must be practical, can we use it to turn devilish and deadly feelings into those good angels, peace of mind and courage and hope.

Loud speakers have their place; but the individual treatment of the individual case -"Treat the patient, not the disease"is the key to all good work. Only too often a ward concert in the old days had to be abandoned because, though 23 patients would have benefited, the twenty-fourth would have been injured. The point for each bed is the sound principle of treatment, and we must hope that all doctors and sisters henceforth may be judicious musiclovers and consult with their patients on the use of this lovely medicine-alone worthy to rank with the dayspring from on high.

In the use of light we are learning how to use different notes and even different chords, for different cases: one may need the high notes we call ultra-violet, or even the highest of all, called X-rays; another may need the low notes towards the bass, called red light, or even the dark heat rays, still lower in pitch. Just so in music. A patient with very sensitive hearing may not want to hear a military band with a lot of brass, but may be helped to sleep by the quiet high notes of a violin:- "Music that gentlier on the spirit lies, Than tired eyelids upon tired eyes". But his neighbor, in the next bed, who was a soldier in the Great War, may rejoice to hear some martial music once again. And, of course, we need different kinds of music for the low brow and the high brow; but I hope we shall especially cater to that excellent person, the broad

brow, who likes the best of everything, from Bach to ragtime.

As everybody knows, a great newspaper\* is now running a campaign for wireless in the wards, for music as medicine: including good speaking, which has a musical quality or good would not be the word to describe it. Which came first, in human history, by the way, song or speech? That is an interesting question which they may discuss at the evolution trial in Tennessee: but the point now is that we want the best of both to help to relieve and cure the sick, to put them to sleep and soothe their pain without the reaction and the long price that most of our drugs out of bottles exact for their services. Evidently here is an obvious way in which we can serve the hospitals, shorten convalescense, which is, in effect, adding to the number of beds-and bring the very substance and essence of a holiday to those who cannot go where they will these days to find it for themselves.

Long ago there was plenty of noise but no music on earth. I have heard Vesuvius rumble: a great noise, but music is better. There is still too much noise, especially around the walls of our urban hospitals. But surely the very soul of progress is to move from noise to music: from discord to concord: from quarrelling to harmony: from fear to peace: from shouting to singing; until someday, mankind may hear the music of the spheres and then proceed to enhance and enrich it for himself. It is at least a step to that goal so to equip the suffering that in the moment they put on the headphones they move from noise to music.

Here's to the Aether, and the Aether Organ with its fifty octaves of waves for us. In September, after studying at first hand some of the new work on the Continent, I hope to talk to you yet again about the one octave of aether waves which we call light. But this evening, here's to the long waves, many octaves below light waves and heat waves, which now can carry the balm of

(Continued on page 55)

<sup>\*</sup>See Editor's prefatory note.



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## VISITING MUSIC CLASSES IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND AND GERMANY

MABELLE GLENN

President, Music Supervisors National Conference

Editor's Note: Miss Glenn and the group which took the longer organized tour in connection with the Lausanne Conference, included school visiting as a part of the summer plan. This report of the experience will be interesting to all of us.—P.J.W.

NCE I was approached by a woman author with a travelogue on Hawaii. When asked how much time she had spent in Hawaii writing the book, she confessed that she had stopped for a day on her way to Australia. The interesting feature of the book was its far cry from Hawaii as it is known to a person who lives there. giving a report of public school music in England and Germany I feel that I am putting myself in the class with the lady who wrote the book on Hawaii. Whether the places I visited this summer were typical or not. I have no way of judging. However. many things I observed were interesting to me and may be to others.

In London I visited an Infant's Church School (kindergarten, first, second and third grades) which was recommended to me as a school which did exceptional work in music. I also visited a County Council School of twelve hundred students in which the headmaster and most of the teachers had an unusual interest in music. This school was divided into three departments: an infants' school, a boys' school and a girls' school. In the infants' school we saw groups of fifty children, three year olds, and similar groups of four year olds, five year olds, etc. Their work was mostly rhythmic response with almost no singing. The teacher, playing at the piano, changed the mood and rhythm from time to time, and without any direction to the children gave them opportunity for free expression. All children were either bare-footed or in stocking feet, and danced in an open space twice the size of an ordinary school room. The children who did not feel

the rhythm did not seem to worry the teacher; she was wise enough to know that if she left them alone with the music they would feel the rhythm in time.

All of the lower grade rhythm work which we observed in England proved that English teachers have faith in music and that they are wise enough not to put themselves between the music and the children. In the upper schools there was a great deal of time spent on English folk dances. It seems that all the schools in London had prepared these English folk dances and had danced them together on the green in Hyde Park at a spring festival.

Most of the singing which we heard in England was rote singing. Even in the upper grades we heard only unison singing, with the exception of the singing of rounds. We were asked if the tone quality was different from that in America and we couldn't answer in the affirmative. The tone was free, unforced; but so is the tone in America in many school systems.

We saw no work with monotones in the lower grades; but evidently much attention must be given to this, for most of the children in the upper grades sing with pleasure. However, there were a certain number in each group who kept silent.

We have often heard that the type of music used in the English schools is superior to the type of music used in the American schools. The English people use a great many folk songs, as of course do the Americans. We heard a class of fifth grade girls sing a group of Schubert songs with lovely tone, but these particular songs were love songs which to me seemed unsuitable for fifth grade girls. Without a doubt there are many Schubert songs which are suitable for young children, but even Schubert songs

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should be chosen to fit the group that is to sing them. We heard the soprano part of a four part church anthem sung by a sixth grade class. The teacher and one pupil who had an ear for harmony sang the alto. In this same sixth grade class the soprano part of a four part chorus from an Elgar cantata was sung. Good music? Yes. But suitable for sixth grade unison singing? I should say "no."

In the boys' school as in the grade school all work was unison. When seventh grade boys, some of them fourteen years of age, sang in soprano range, I wondered why the headmaster was missing this opportunity of having beautiful part singing. Certainly these boys' voices were in the stage where they should have been singing in a lower range. The ear training work of the lower grades was such that part singing could easily have been developed. The headmaster said he didn't believe in part singing in the elementary schools. I cannot believe that this is a universal conviction among English music educationists.

And now, what of music reading? In the middle grades we heard very splendid ear training work. It appears that every child in England is taught to sing three space C whenever called upon. In several different classes we heard the teacher play a succession of chords that were rather disturbing to keeping the C tone in mind, and when the teacher stopped playing, the children gave the C tone without any variance. Another ear training exercise that prevailed in several classes was this: the teacher played a melody to the last tone and the children sang the home tone for a finish. The teacher playing the first two phrases of a melody and the children chanting the last two to match the two that the teacher had played. was in common practice. Hand signs seemed to be very popular, much of the drill being on scale motives. When pupils were asked to sing skips they seemed less apt.

All this training, of course, was preliminary to sight reading, but we heard no sight reading. I am not criticising English school music—I am reporting, only. These English children seemed to be getting a great deal of joy in singing. We heard no a cappella singing in the schools and no part singing. Perhaps we in America are too ambitious. We feel that unless our children do a cappella singing in three or four parts in the upper grades, we are not measuring up to our standards. I wonder if our children would love music more and seek music to a greater extent after they left our schools, if we weren't so keen in developing power in sight reading.

I saw one very fine piece of sight reading with a superior group of boys in Westminster Abbey Choir. They have an A choir, a B choir and a C choir, the C choir composed of the best singers from the A and B choirs. I attended a rehearsal of the B choir and heard each choir in service. In Westminster Abbey there is one service every day and sometimes two. There are also many special services. These choir boys are expert readers because they have had opportunity to read quantities of material. Twenty-two boy sopranos are used in every service. To complete the choir there are four men altos, four tenors, and four basses. quarrel of public school music teachers of America with choir masters is this: Why use men altos when thirteen and fourteen year old boys have such beautiful alto voices? Dr. Bullock, the choirmaster at Westminster, gave me a good reason for using men altos. He said that in old cathedral music the alto drops to E below middle C, which is too low for a boy alto. This reason and the necessity for preparing so much material seem adequate reasons for Westminster Abbey using men altos. Of course it takes longer for a boy to master an alto part than for an adult. However, I was allowed to sit in the chancel just two feet from the men altos, and when I compared their tones with the beautiful mellow tones of boy altos I felt sorry that the cathedral choirs are so handicapped in their alto sections. In all of the church choirs and in all of the schools which I visited in England,



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we heard fourteen and fifteen year old boys singing soprano. In several cases I engaged these boys in conversation after I had heard them reach high A in singing, and I noticed that they used the same low voices in speech that our boys in America use at the age of fourteen and fifteen. I fear for the future of these boy singers if they are kept on the soprano part through the changing period. We, in America, have known many beautiful tenors and baritones to grow out of boy sopranos when their voices were let down naturally, month by month.

In one church choir in London, the Temple Church Choir, we heard boys in very beautiful part singing. We heard this choir in its annual concert, the program composed largely of folk music beautifully arranged. Every boy in this choir of fourteen had a beautiful solo voice, but of the fourteen there was only one who had a real flare for singing. He sang Schubert's "Hedge Roses" and "Who is Sylvia?" Every phrase was a per-How quickly the audience felt the difference between this boy who sang naturally, with perfect artistry, and the boys who had been taught to sing artistically. No amount of teaching can take the place of a natural gift.

In visiting the German schools we were interested to see how closely the methods followed those we had observed in England. The ear training was almost identical but the rhythmic response was much more The tone quality was good when the teacher had an ideal for correct tone and bad when the teacher did not have that ideal. The first class which we visited in Cologne was a class of fifth grade boys taught by a professor who looked like the pictures of Beethoven. He officiated most ably at the little reed organ in the room, but he seemed to be more of an instrumentalist than a vocalist. The boys in their great desire to please the Americans used all the lung-power they could muster and in singing a three part round even covered their own ears with their hands to save their ear drums from the din. We saw no sight reading in Cologne,

though we heard very good two part singing by a class of seventh grade girls.

The instrumental training in the English schools seems to be good as far as it goes. They have not introduced class piano instrution. The only instrument which is taught to any extent is the violin. In one school of ordinary size we heard a violin choir of sixty players playing in splendid tune. We learned that these sixty players were trained in three groups and had been put together for special rehearsals in preparation for a great festival at the Crystal Palace when thousands of young violinists from the schools played under the direction of Sir Henry Wood.

Concerts for children in England are being endorsed not only by musicians working in the schools but by all persons interested in music. Symphony concerts for children held on Saturday in London are organized outside the schools. There is no connection between the music in the schools and the concerts. In Sheffield, concerts for children are a very definite part of the school work. The Sheffield Concert Course consists of symphony orchestra and choral concerts, recitals by singers and by small instrumental ensembles. Mr. G. E. Linfoot, director of music in Sheffield, manages the concerts and the Board of Education finances them. There is definite preparation and follow-up work in the schools so the greatest possible benefit is derived. It is interesting to observe that the trend of thought in the development of this particular phase of music education is similar in England and America. It seems that the greater the advantage offered in reproduced music and music over the radio, the more educationists believe in first-hand concerts for young people.

I feel that visiting schools in England and Germany and talking over class-room procedure and organization with music workers across the Atlantic has been a great stimulus. The fact that sincere investigators on both sides of the great ocean are coming to the same conclusions, makes us more confident that we are headed in the right direction.

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## **OUR CHILDREN'S CONCERT ACTIVITIES**

By MABELLE GLENN

President, Music Supervisors National Conference

HE idea of concerts for children organized and carried on as an integral part of the school music program was born of the large vision and boundless enthusiasm of many supervisors of music. In several cities of the United States children's concerts have been carried on with remarkable success. How to bring splendid first hand music within the reach of all school children seemed to me to be one of the first problems of the Music Supervisors National Conference. But the question was, how can we make school concerts available to all school supervisors? If children's concerts were to have their proper place in the field of music education the artists selected and the programs used must be especially adapted to school use: the activity must be an educational service more than a concert booking enterprise, and it should be self-sustaining. To attain this ultimate position, the activity devoted to children's concerts should be sponsored by some organization which would and could accept the responsibility for the

technical phases of school concerts. The Music Supervisors National Conference seemed to me to be the logical organization to sponsor such an activity.

While the plan for children's concerts had been generally discussed and nearly universally conceded, the opportunity but recently came for the successful inauguration of the project, thru our being able to interest Moreland Brown in the activity. Mr. Brown for many years had successfully managed Lyceum and Chautauqua circuits and for four years used teachers of music appreciation in his Junior Chautauqua programs. Following a careful going over of the plan with Mr. Brown, the matter was presented to the Board of Directors of the National Conference, who, without a dissenting voice, agreed that the plan for children's concerts under the name of School Concert SERIES, with Moreland Brown as manager, be adopted as an activity of the National Conference.

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THE MUSICAL PILGRIM SERIES. Edited by Sir Arthur Somervell, Director of Music, Board of Education, London. Each 75c.

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Announcement was made in May, through letters sent to supervisors in a necessarily limited territory, that there would be a concert circuit, offering three artist groups and filling approximately 100 school dates. Replies indicated nearly universal interest among supervisors and a general desire to have the children's concerts. Many answered at once that they wanted them, while others replied that local plans could not be completed until fall. It is hoped that the supervisors using these 100 dates will make special preparation for their concerts, so that in each town they may be an outstanding contribution to music education.

Mr. Brown agreed that if the National Conference, working through its Concert Committee, would undertake to plan and direct the technical phases of the programs for children's concerts, he would undertake to organize one school circuit this first year, add additional circuits in following years, and guarantee the financial obligations. Mr. Brown stressed the fact that 100 dates on a concert circuit are likened to 100 chain stores. The 100 schools must join to buy and use the same three artist groups, with a uniform educational service, accepting the dates as assigned, on any school day, at intervals during the school year.

As a result the National Conference now has a "going" children's concert activity with the following attendant responsibilities:

 To determine the number, type and size of units to be used on each circuit;

To select or approve the artists that will comprise these units;

 To approve and suggest selections the artists will be prepared to give on the various school programs;

 To prepare program notes and study suggestions for the general use of the supervisors using the concerts;

5. To select or approve trained teachers who in advance of each unit are to offer their assistance to local supervisors in preparing their audiences for the concerts;

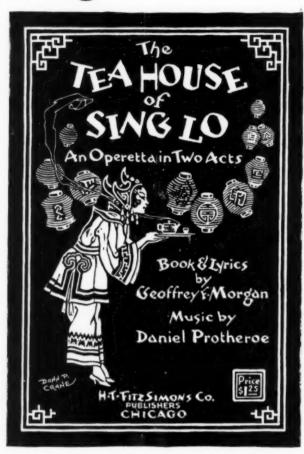
To approve the price that is to be charged for the series. The results of such a circuit plan of operation are at once apparent in the quality of artists and programs our schools are going to receive this very first year and at a price of only \$500.00 for the series of three concerts, or an average of only \$166.66 per concert.

When the plan was being formed and it was agreed that for the first year we would use three artist groups (a violin-cello-piano trio; a concert pianist and a lyric soprano or tenor; and a condensed version of the opera "Hansel and Gretel", these three units to be sold at \$500.00) I never dreamed that we could expect to have the superior artists that have been secured for these children's concerts. Part of this comes because of our good fortune in finding some unusual artists interested in concerts of this particular type.

For our "Hansel & Gretel" unit, we concluded that the supervisors would be highly pleased if the Opera Department of the Eastman School of Music would produce the opera for us, using Eastman graduates, and putting it forth as an Eastman production, with all the attention to details which we knew this entailed. As a result of an early summer conference, we were assured the Eastman School was very much interested in cooperating with us in our plan of establishing children's concerts. They asked until September 15 after the reopening of school, to be sure that they could get the graduates desired for the opera, in which event they would put on the opera. As an alternative, through Mr. Arthur M. See, Secretary of the Eastman School of Music, arrangements were made with Mr. W. Rosing, Director of the American Opera Company, that, in the event the Eastman School of Music should decide they were not in a position to produce the opera as an Eastman production, then Mr. Rosing would produce the opera for us, using voices from the Eastman and other schools. And Mr. Rosing said "I have plenty of beautiful voices." So, in either event, we are assured

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The Van Vliet Trio (violin, cello, piano) with Mr. Cornelius Van Vliet, nationally known cellist, as soloist, is an attraction that any music center might welcome.

The third unit of this school series will interest particularly supervisors who attended the Anglo-American Conference in Switzerland this summer. Steuart Wilson, a tenor from London, so captivated the Conference with his beautiful and intelligent singing that all Americans began wondering why America had not had the privilege of hearing this distinguished artist. Little we dreamed that we might be able to secure Mr. Wilson for our school concert series, but that is just what has happened. Mr. Wilson will be with us ten weeks this year. We invited him for twenty weeks, but his many bookings

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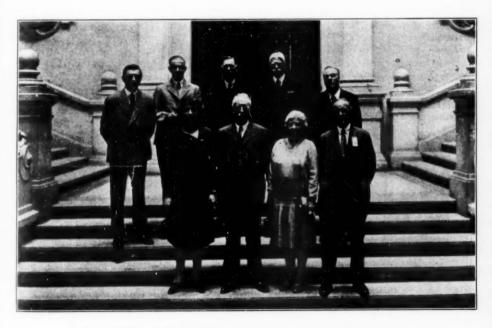
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in England could not be crowded together to make a twenty-week stay in America possible. Mr. Wilson is a master of the art of Lieder singing and also of Oratorio and opera singing. He is booked to sing a dozen performances of Bach's Passion Music according to St. Matthew in music centers of England during the Eastertide.

With Mr. Wilson will be a brilliant young pianist, Dalies Franz. Mr. Franz played for Kansas City children last year and is being brought back to Kansas City for six concerts this year because of many requests.

To this very worthy project of the Supervisors National Conference many persons are giving much time and thought, but the enthusiasm with which every suggestion is met by supervisors and superintendents is sufficient reward. "Music for Every Child and Every Child for Music" is fast becoming an actuality in America.



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## SECOND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

PRESIDENT Glenn has authorized the organization of the Second National High School Chorus as one of the features of the 1930 Conference. The Chorus will assemble at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, on Monday morning, March 24, and rehearse twice daily until Friday. The concert will be given in the Auditorium Theatre on Friday evening, March 28 and, as in 1928, will be the closing event of Conference Week.

Dr. Hollis Dann has been appointed conductor. Mr. Frederick Alexander of Ypsilanti, Michigan, has accepted the invitation to serve as guest conductor. The name of another guest conductor will be announced later. President Glenn has reappointed Mr. R. Lee Osburn as chairman of the Organization Committee. Much of the success of the First National Chorus was due to his efficient leadership.

The widespread interest and enthusiasm aroused by the work of the First National Chorus at Chicago in 1928 has continued and an enthusiastic response to the announcement of the Second National Chorus is assured. In 1928 the applications were greatly in excess of the membership. This year the number of applications will undoubtedly be much larger.

The Chorus will number four hundred voices—sixty-eight first sopranos, fifty second sopranos, forty-two first altos, forty-eight second altos, forty-six first tenors, forty second tenors, forty-eight first basses and fifty-eight second basses.

Allotment of chorus members to the different states will be made in proportion to the high school enrollment, excepting that each State will be alloted a minimum of two members. The quota of chorus members for each State follows: Alabama 5, Arizona 3, Arkansas 3, California 24, Colorado 5, Connecticut 4. Delaware 2. District of Columbia 2, Florida 4, Georgia 5, Idaho 2, Illinois 23, Indiana 15, Iowa 13, Kansas 11, Kentucky 5, Louisiana 3, Maine 3, Maryland 5, Massachusetts 18, Michigan 17, Minnesota 11, Mississippi 3, Missouri 11, Montana 2, Nebraska 7, Nevada 2, New Hampshire 2, New Jersey 11, New Mexico 2, New York 43, North Carolina 7, North Dakota 3, Ohio 27, Oklahoma 9, Oregon 4, Pennsylvania 31, Rhode Island 2 South Carolina 3, South Dakota 3, Tennessee 5, Texas 13, Utah 3, Vermont 2, Virginia 5, Washington 8, West Virginia 5, Wisconsin 10, Wyoming 2.

Each State will be given until December 1 to fill its quota. After that date members will

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Your ability to make the children concentrate on the music and forget everything else is a gift which is truly rare. When six large audiences of children sit "spell-bound" listening for over an hour to the best of music literature, We know that their imaginations have been stimulated to such an extent that the impression will be lasting."

Sincerely yours,

MABELLE GLENN

(Signed)

Director of Music.

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be chosen from applications on file from any State, regardless of State allotment, until all sections of the chorus are filled. All applications must be made not later than December 1, as the chorus must be fully organized, the chorus books purchased and study of the music begun not later than January 1. Preference will be given to early applications.

All members of the chorus will be prepared by supervisors and directors of music in the high schools.

All who desire to recommend candidates should write at once for application blanks and enrollment cards to R. Lee Osburn, Director of Music, Proviso Township High School, Maywood, Illinois, Chairman of Committee on Organization. An application blank is needed for each applicant for membership. Write immediately for the number of application blanks desired, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Suggestions concerning the selection of voices and other important details will be sent with the application blanks.

The program numbers have been chosen and approved by the Guest Conductor and the Vocal Affairs Committee consisting of Ernest Hesser, Chairman, Teresa Armitage, William Breach, Hollis Dann, R. Lee Osburn.

All the music will be bound in one volume which may be purchased of the Gamble Hinged Music Company, Chicago.

The program will be as follows:-

### Part One

- 4. In Absence ..... Dudley Buck (A Cappella)
- - (A Cappella)
    Mr. Frederick Alexander—Conductor
- 7. a. Break Forth, Thou Beauteous Heavenly Light......Bach
  - b. Aberystwyth (Jesus, Lover of My Soul). Parry
  - c. Hallelujah from "The Messiah"...... Handel
    The Audience of Supervisors of Music

### Part Two

- 9. a. Kye Song of Saint Bride...Joseph W. Clokey (Piano Accompaniment)
  - b. Little Duck in the Meadow—"Ootyonushka Loogovaya"......... Russian Folk Dance Arranged by Nikolsky (A Cappella)
- 10. O Can Ye Sew Cushions?
- (A Cappella) Old Scottish Cradle Song
  (A Cappella) Granville Bantock

  11. Ca' the Yowes... Scottish Folkeong
- (A Cappella) Arr. by Vaughan Williams
  12. Emitte Spritum Tuum.....Fr. Jos. Schuetky
  (A Cappella)

All teachers intending to send in applications for chorus membership are strongly advised carefully to look over the music before selecting the voices. The advantage of knowing the character and difficulty of the music prior to choosing the singers is obvious. The book will be ready for delivery by November 1.

In response to a general desire as expressed by a large number of supervisors and others, the program consists mostly of music sung a cappella. The accompaniments for the Brahms and the Clokey numbers and also for the three numbers to be sung by the audience of supervisors, will be played on two pianos by Mr. Frank Luker and Mr. Robert Braun. Mr. Luker, who was the official accompanist last year, will zerve again in this capacity. Mr. Braun, official accompanist for the 1920 Supervisors Chorus at St. Louis, has consented to assist at the concert.

The audience at the choral concert will consist almost entirely of teachers and supervisors of music. Many members of the Conference have repeatedly requested that the supervisors shall take an active part in the program. Remembering the unique and distinctive choral singing done by the chorus of supervisors in previous Conference concerts after very little rehearsing, the Vocal Affairs Committee decided to include this unique feature in the program. Three numbers will be sung by the audience: "Break Forth thou Beauteous Heavenly Light," by Bach; "Aberystwyth," by Sir (Continued on page 55)

# New 1929 Class - Roo

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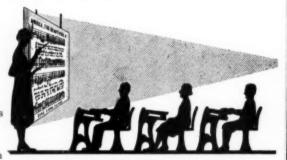
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## 1930 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Section A—Atlantic City, N. J. Feb. 23-27 (Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association—Conductors, Joseph E. Maddy and Walter Damrosch).

Section B—Chicago, Ill. March 21-26 (Music Supervisors National Conference—Conductors, Joseph E. Maddy and Frederick A. Stock).

The expense of participating in either of these organizations will be about \$5.00 per day plus railroad fare. The two orchestras are entirely separate organizations and no player will be permitted to play in both. In filling out the application blank a student may indicate which organization he desires to enter and also indicate if he wishes to be considered for the other group in case he is not accepted for the one of his choice.

The National High School Orchestra was first assembled to play for the 1926 convention of the Music Supervisors National Conference at Detroit. In 1927 it was again assembled to play for the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, at Dallas. The third assemblage was for the Music Supervisors National Conference at Chicago in 1928, from which grew the National High School Orchestra and Band Camp at Interlochen, Michigan.

These gatherings have proven that the idea of gathering selected players from all parts of the country is both practical and feasible. That the National High School Orchestra has become very popular is evi-

denced by the fact that two great educational bodies have urgently requested that it be featured at their 1930 conventions, and two great conductors have offered their services as guest conductors at these conventions.

While the personnel of these two sections of the National High School Orchestra will be entirely different, the organization and management will be practically the same. Each section will number about 300 players, carefully chosen for outstanding musicianship and character, comprising the following instrumentation: 100 violins, 40 violas, 30 cellos, 24 basses, 10 flutes, 10 oboes, 12 clarinets, 10 bassoons, 12 French horns, 12 trumpets, 12 trombones, 6 tubas, 12 harps and 6 percussion players. Membership is open to high school students of excellent character who are also fine musicians and loval members of their own school music organizations. All applicants must be recommended by superintendent of schools, high school principal and music supervisor as to the above qualifications.

Applications may be sent in at any time. Selection of players will be made December 15 and players notified of their acceptance or non-acceptance on that date. Accepted players will be expected to send checks for \$25 before January 1, 1930, as assurance of good faith and to cover the cost of their hotel accommodations during their stay in



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Atlantic City or Chicago. Music will be sent out January 1 for advance practice and the players will be required to master their music before the orchestra assembles.

Players will be selected on merit as evidenced by their applications. Preference will be given first to the best player entered from each state and second to players who have been previous members of the National High School Orchestra or the National High School Orchestra and Band Camp.

Application blanks may be had by addressing Joseph E. Maddy, Box 386, Ann Arbor, Mich.

## NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHES-TRA TO PLAY IN NEW YORK, PHILA-DELPHIA AND WASHINGTON

Immediately following the final program of the Department of Superintendence convention in Atlantic City, a select group of 200 players from the National High School Orchestra will travel to Philadelphia where they will give a concert Thursday evening, Feb. 27, at the Metropolitan Opera House under the auspices of the Philadelphia Civic Music Association.

The following evening, February 28, this group will play in Carnegie Hall, New York City, this concert being sponsored by Dr. John Erskine, President of the Juilliard Foundation, after which a reception will be given for the orchestra members at the Juilliard School of Music.

On Saturday, March 1, the orchestra will give a concert at the new Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C. sponsored by Mrs. (Senator) A. H. Vandenberg. This will be an invitation concert at which a large number of government officials will be present.

This selected orchestra of 200 players will consist of players who were trained at the National High School Orchestra and Band Camp last summer. The programs, which were rehearsed at the Camp, include more difficult numbers than those included in the Atlantic City or Chicago programs. One of the numbers will be Ernest Bloch's "America".

### NATIONAL CAMP A GREAT SUCCESS

"The Overture 1929", the year book of the National High School Orchestra and Band Camp, will be ready for distribution by the time you receive this JOURNAL. You may have a copy, free, by writing Joseph E. Maddy, Box 386, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The membership of the 1929 Camp included 232 high school students and 51 music supervisors attending extension courses offered in connection with the Camp. The faculty and counsellor staff of 70 well known musicians and educators pronounced the Camp the most inspiring experience of their lives.

An orchestra of 210; a band of 120; an a cappella choir of 80; a harp ensemble of 15; classes in conducting, harmony, composition, methods; private lessons; class lessons in all instruments; an opera; an oratorio; 15 symphonies—these were some of the accomplishments of the 1929 National High School Orchestra and Band Camp. Guest conductors included Howard Hanson, Leo Sowerby, Carl Busch, Earl V. Moore, John Minnema, A. A. Harding, Raymond Dvorak and others.

Dr. John Erskine, who appeared as soloist with the orchestra, said, "I shall be interested to see the results of this project ten years from now. I expect to see this camp duplicated and its influence spread widely. I believe that this camp will become a great institution in American Music."

United States Senator A. H. Vandenberg visited the camp with Mrs. Vandenberg and made the following statement: "The close connection of the students with Nature and the study of music is one of the most ideal things imaginable". Mrs. Vandenberg wrote: "The whole proposition is simply breathtaking in its conception and initiation."

The Camp was built to accommodate 300 players. 175 of the 1929 members are eligible to return in 1930, leaving 125 vacancies to be filled by new members. If you have any fine players of excellent character whom you would like to send, write for application blank and year book.

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The National Music League is especially interested in the musical needs of the younger generation. It aims, through the development of educational concerts by young people for young people, to develop a new and enthusiastic concert-going public.

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### CONTEST BOOKLETS READY

"1930 State and National Band Contests" and "1930 State and National School Orchestra Contests", containing the contest numbers and rules for the 1930 contests, are ready for distribution and may be had by addressing C. M. Tremaine, Director, National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, 45 West 45th Street, New York.

The first National High School Orchestra Contest was held at Iowa City, May 17 and 18, with 14 orchestras competing. The Class A winning organizations were Lincoln, Nebraska, first; Hammond, Indiana, second; and Flint, Michigan, third. The Class B winning organizations were Mt. Clemens, Michigan, first; Michigan City, Indiana, second; and Decatur, Michigan, third.

The third National High School Band Contest was held at Denver, Colorado, May 24, 25 and 26, with 27 bands competing. The Class A winning bands were Nicholas Senn High School, Chicago, first; Modesto, California, second; and Gary, Indiana, third. The Class B winning bands were Lansing Vocational, Lansing, Michigan, first; Belvidere, Illinois, second; and Princeton, California, third.

## Second National High School Chorus

(Continued from page 47)

Hubert Parry, to the hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"; and "The Hallelujah" from "The Messiah." It is rather a hazardous undertaking to sing these selections, especially the Hallelujah, without rehearsal. Certainly no other excepting a Welsh audience at an Eisteddfod would dare to attempt it. If we could sing from memory as the Welsh do, there could be no doubt of success.

Both adults and children of European peoples sing a large repertoire of music in parts from memory.

President Glenn, the Vocal Affairs Committee and other Conference leaders believe that the singing of these three numbers on the National High School Chorus program

from memory by three or four thousand supervisors would be an ideal beginning of a campaign looking to the memorizing by all children in the upper grades and high school of a limited number of songs everybody should know, chosen presumably by the Research Council and the National Conference. The three selections will be found in the new edition of the "Twice Fifty Five Songs" Green Book to be published shortly by C. C. Birchard & Company, Boston and New York. Would it not be a delightful and epoch-making event for a great American audience to sing well three great choruses from memory without rehearsal?

## On Music as Medicine

(Continued from page 47)

poetry and music over the oceans or the deserts, if necessary, through all material obstacles, to reach the needy, thirsty, heart and ear of the weary, the suffering, the anxious and the sleepless. Medicine indeed, like the sunlight itself, with healing in its wings.

In sweet music is such art Killing care and grief of heart.

## PLEASE SEND US

the names and addresses of School Music Teachers

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THERE WERE SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD
AND LO! THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM
AND SUDDERLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL
GLORY TO GOO IN THE HIGHEST
WHY DO THE NATIONS SO FURIOUSLY RAGE TOGETHER
HOW BEAUTIFUL AIR THE FEET OF THEM
THEIR SOUND IS GONE OUT INTO ALL LANDS
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# California Conference

L. WOODSEN CURTIS, Los Angeles, California, 2nd Vice-Pres. and Editor

HERMAN TRUTNER, JR., Oakland, Cal. President
MRS. GERTRUDE B. PARSONS, Los Angeles, Cal., 1st Vice-Pres.

S. GRACE GANTT Berkeley, Cal., Secretary and Treasurer F. F. JEFFERS, San Jose, Cal., Auditor

Since affiliation with the National Conference the annual dues for the California members will be three (3) dollars a year, the same as paid by members of other sections. Of this amount 75 cts. goes to the National, 75 cents is retained by the Section and \$1.50 goes to the Publication Fund. Each member will receive a copy of the Annual Book of Proceedings, which is always very interesting and well worth \$1.50; also the regular issues of the Music Supervisors Journal, the official organ of the California Conference.

Dues paid this Fall will be for the Calendar year 1930, and entitle the member to the 1930 Book of Proceedings.

Each district of the State (conforming to that of the California Teachers Association) will have a membership committee with chairman, who will present all matters pertaining to affiliations with the National Conference, such as dues, Book of Proceedings, Supervisors Journal etc., to the Music Section Meetings during Institute week and urge membership in our California Conference.

The State chairman of membership is the 1st Vice President, Mrs. Gertrude B. Parsons, Polytechnic High School, Los Angeles, Cal. to whom all district chairmen will report. It is hoped that all those who were members during 1929 will retain their membership under the new order of things.

The officers of the California Conference are listed above at the head of this, our regular department of the Journal. The revision of the Constitution and By-Laws is being made, to conform to those of the National Conference. Meanwhile, additional officers are required to meet the new

conditions, and at a meeting of the Executive Committee held in July the following were elected, to hold office until the next regular meeting of the Conference: L. Woodsen Curtis, Los Angeles, 2nd Vice-President and Editor; F. F. Jeffers, San Jose, Auditor; Mrs. Mary McCauley, Sansalita, and Ernest L. Owens, Mill Valley, members of the National Board of Directors.

Since California has become a part of the National Conference by action of the teachers assembled at the annual meeting of the California Public School Music Conference held in San Francisco last March, it will not be amiss to present a short history of the early days of Public School Music Teachers meetings and associations.

As far back as 1919 annual sessions were held, called by the State Board of Education. Mrs. Shallenberger McNaught of the State Board was much interested in these meetings with a view to improving conditions, especially for Rutal communities. Later Mrs. Grace Stanley and Miss Lang were the guiding spirits who did much to bring the music teachers and supervisors together annually for discussion and presenting class work in various branches.

Miss Helen Heffernan for the past several years has done much to promote associations and the general improvement of Public School Music teaching methods.

The earliest group of teachers was the Los Angeles City and County Public School Music Teachers Association. At a later date, about 1924, this group expanded so as to embrace the whole of Southern California and a new name was selected—"The Southern Public School Music Teachers Associ-

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ation". Mrs. Annie Marie Clarke-Ostrander was president in 1924. In 1925 the State Board of Education called a meeting of public school music supervisors and teachers which was held in Pomona. At this meeting the state-wide association came into being as The California Public School Music Conference. The Southern Association continued on as a section of the State group. Mr. Charles M. Dennis, Dean of the Conservatory, College of the Pacific, Stockton, was elected the first President of the California Public School Music Conference.

Under Mr. Dennis' able leadership the conference was placed on a firm footing and membership increased. It was at this time, 1924, that the Public School Music Bulletin was launched by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Bartlett of Los Angeles. This magazine received the endorsement of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and became in a way the official organ of the Conference. To Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett is due much credit for efforts put forth in furnishing a medium for advanced thought and practice in public school music instruction in California.

In 1926 Mr. Dennis was re-elected as president. Membership continued to grow, meetings were commencing to assume considerable proportions and were much more interesting and worth while for teachers and supervisors.

The following year the Conference was held at Long Beach. This was a splendid meeting; good fellowship prevailed and a worthy program was presented. Mr. Ernest L. Owen of Mill Valley was elected President.

It was during Mr. Owen's year of office that the first All-State High Schools Orchestra was organized and a concert given at Sacramento during the Convention of High School Principals. This orchestra had 211 players and was drawn from 109 high schools throughout the State. The success of this concert, as well as matters pertaining to Conference affairs, gave evidence of the organizing ability of Mr. Owen. His year as President left the Conference in a prosperous condition.

In 1923 the Conference was held in Fresno. A fine program was presented which held many demonstrations of class work in different grades ending with an orchestral concert by a selected group of students from high schools of the San Jaquin Valley.

Miss Minerva Hall of Long Beach was elected President for the new year. Under Miss Hall's leadership membership grew to considerably over 400. During Miss Hall's term much was done to crystallize the idea of affiliation with the National. When the proposition for affiliation was presented at the Conference which was held in San Francisco last March, it was voted unanimously.

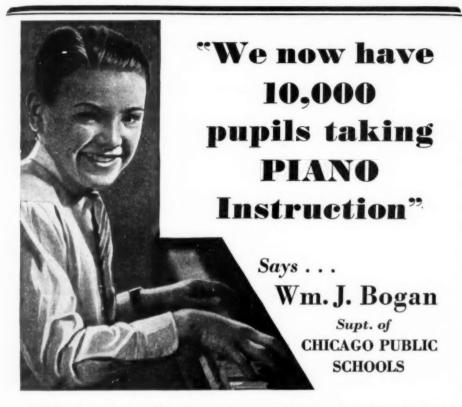
This Conference was probably the largest and most ambitious of any held thus far. The attendance was large, and among the many excellent features presented were the All-Bay High School Orchestra of 157 players and the All-Bay High School Chorus of 276.

Affiliation with the National having been accomplished, thus ended the "California Public School Music Conference". Under the new order of things the name has been changed to California Music Supervisors Conference. Mr. Herman Trutner Jr. of Oakland was elected President.

California is now a section of the National, a consumation which has been long sought by many. Through affiliation with the National, California is brought into the larger sphere of public school music activities. The old order merges into the new, fully equipped and professionally prepared.

The California Music Supervisors Conference will be found fully abreast of the times, ready to play its part in every way, and add perhaps, if not the most brilliant, at least a very luminous section to the great galaxy of sections which constitutes the Music Supervisors National Conference of the United States.

As the youngest member in the National, we enter humbly—not in swaddling clothes, but as one fully grown and ready to go!



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# Eastern Conference

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M. CLAUDE ROSENBERRY, Harrisburg, Pa., President ELBRIDGE S. PITCHER, Auburn, Me., 1st Vice-President MARION E. KNIGHTLY, Winchester, Mass., Secretary

CLARENCE WELLS, Orange, N. J., Treasurer F. COLWELL CONKLIN, Larchmont, N. Y., Director Annabel Groves Howell, Wilmington, Del., Director

THE activity of the music supervisors in the Eastern Conference manifests itself in the fall in their enthusiastic meetings with the various state teachers associations. October and November will be the time for all of these meetings except those in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, which come later.

Maine. The Maine music supervisors are to have a strong program in Portland on October 25, Mrs. Dorothy Marden, president. Music numbers will be given by the Portland High School Orchestra, the Waterville J. H. S. Boys' Glee Club, the Lincoln J. H. S. Orchestra of Portland, the Fryeburg Academy Glee Club, and the Bangor High School Band. Miss Ethel M. Lee, supervisor of vocal music in the Waterville schools will discuss "Boys' voices in the Junior High Schools" in connection with the appearance of her glee club. The program contains two addresses by visitors from outside the state. One is by C. M. Tremaine, director of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music; the other by Miss Pauline A. Meyer, director of music, State Normal School, Cortland, N. Y.

New Hampshire. Mr. Harry W. Davis of the Keene State Normal School presides at the meeting at Littleton on October 4th. The most interest centers around the performance of the State High School Orchestra, which will be recruited mainly from towns in the northern part of the state, and which will be directed by George T. Goldthwaite of Berlin. The program is a fine one, including the Schubert Unfinished Symphony and will be given in the evening. The

afternoon program includes social singing under the direction of Herbert R. Fisher, Manchester, an open forum on common problems of the music teacher, and an address by Supt. of Schools Almon W. Bushnell of Henniker. An address of unusual interest will be given by Prof. Leonard B. McWhood of Dartmouth College, on the "Place of Music in School Education".

Vermont. The Vermont Music Supervisors Association always has a live meeting in connection with the state convention in October.

Rhode Island. This association always meets the last Thursday in October in connection with the State Teachers' Institute. Miss May H. Hanley is president. This year the feature of the program will be an address by Frederick H. Haywood, of the Haywood Institute of Universal Song, New York City.

Connecticut. The Connecticut Music Teachers' Association consists of private teachers of music, special teachers of music and supervisors. Miss Marie Bissell of Hartford is president. The Fall meeting is always held in connection with the State Teachers' Convention in October. The morning session usually has a lecture of general musical interest by some prominent person; the afternoon session is given to the discussion of some subject of special interest to supervisors.

New Jersey. Mr. R. A. L. Smith of Newark presides at the annual meeting to be held at Atlantic City on November 11 at the time of the State Teachers' Convention. The special feature of this convention will

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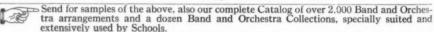
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be the Sunday afternoon concert to be given by the State High School Orchestra of 150 pieces. Conductors for this concert will be Arthur Brandenberg of Elizabeth, Clarence Wells of Orange, and R. A. L. Smith of Newark. The program is exceptionally fine, including works by Wagner, Beethoven, Dvorak, Delibes, and Luigini.

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Delaware. Wilmington has a Public School Music Teachers' Club, which holds monthly meetings throughout the year. The first meeting will be held October first, Mrs. Anabel Groves Howell, president. There is also a State Music Teachers' Association.

**New York.** New York music supervisors meet with the State Teachers' Association in seven different zone meetings:

Northern Zone, Potsdam, October 10-11; Miss Glazier, of Gouverneur, chairman.

The program features two instrumental demonstrations:—string instruments by Franklin H. Bishop, and wind instruments by James Garfield, both of the Potsdam State Normal School. The three speakers are to be Dr. Charles H. Farnsworth of New York; Jay W. Fay of Plainfield, New Jersey; and Russell Carter, State supervisor of Music for New York.

Eastern Zone, Albany, October 24-25; Ralph Winslow of Albany, chairman.

Musical inspiration at this meeting will be furnished by Dr. T. F. H. Candlyn of Albany State College in his organ recital and in his demonstration with some of his choristers. The addresses promise to be no less interesting, for the speakers are Paul J. Weaver, of Cornell University; Bernard B. Nye of New Rochelle, N. Y.; Brs. La Dow of Menands, N. Y.; Dr. Sigmund Spaeth of New York City; and Russell Carter, State Supervisor for New York.

Central Western Zone, Rochester, November 1-2; Miss Lulu M. Curtis of Canandaigua, chairman.

The Rochester West High School Choir under the direction of Alfred Spouse, the West High String Quartet under the direction of Henry Osborne, a violin solo by Mr. Osborne and a vocal solo by Miss Anne Morrow of Rochester are the musical numbers. A rhythm band demonstration by second grade pupils will be conducted by Miss Maria Childs of Rochester, and a demonstration of voice training by Howard Clarke Davis of the State Normal School at Fredonia. Harold L. Butler, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Syracuse University, Frederick H. Haywood of New York City and Dr. Jacob Kwalwasser of Syracuse University will be the speakers

Southern Zone, Binghamton, November 1-2; Miss Pauline A. Meyer, of State Normal School, Cortland, Chairman.

Music at the opening of each session is to be furnished by the Binghamton High School Festival Chorus, Ray Hartley, director, and by the Cortland High School Orchestra, Manetta F. Marsh, director. There will be two demonstrations—a second grade class lesson, by a special teacher of music in the Binghamton schools, and a demonstration in the teaching of music appreciation by Miss Helen S. Leavitt of Boston. The latter demonstration will be preceded by an address. A pro and con discussion of the relationship between grade teacher and music supervisor will be given by Mrs. Perkins of Johnson City and George J. Abbott of Elmira. Addresses are scheduled by Dr. Jacob Kwalwasser of Syracuse University, and Paul J. Weaver of Cornell University.

Western Zone, Buffalo, November 8-9; Miss Julia Leonard, of Lockport, chairman.

Friday will have three addresses:—by Mr. Roy B. Kelley, superintendent of the Lockport schools; Mr. Russell Carter, state supervisor of New York; and an address with a demonstration by Mr. Bruce Carey, Director of Music, Girard College, Philadelphia, "The Boy Voice in Singing". Saturday morning will be given over to various demonstrations in the Buffalo schools.

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## Tests and Measurement Department

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Professor of Music Education, Teachers College, Columbia University
New York City

## A CRITIQUE OF MEASURES OF MUSICAL TALENT

C. O. WILLIAMS

Assistant Professor of Education, Pennsylvania State College

Editor's note: Three reasons have led to the inclusion of the article which is ready below,

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First: So much has already been accomplished with tests and measurements in music that persons who are familiar with some portions of the work need to have, from time to time, a summary of the whole field so that they may properly relate the parts with which they are already familiar.

Second: So many new readers have been added to the JOURNAL circulation since this department was started that they necessarily have thus far only a partial understanding of the extent and significance of the movement and will be able to see later developments better through the perspective which this review article presents.

this review article presents.

Third: During the remainder of the year it is hoped to print articles on newer phases, the understanding of which takes for granted a knowledge of the main developments in the field such as those which are summarized below.

Mr. C. O. Williams, the writer of this article, prepared it in connection with a course in Teachers College devoted to Vocational Guidance. It was, therefore, formulated from the point of view of the needs of the general reader and educational administrator rather than the music specialist.—P.W.D.

### Introduction

EACH your boy to blow a horn and he will never blow a safe" is a catchy advertising slogan for a manufacturer of musical instruments, but its contention is not supported by scientific evidence. This latter fact does not diminish its potency in influencing parents and teachers to advise many boys and girls to begin taking private lessons on a musical instrument. numbers of boys and girls are spending money and time taking music lessons and are doomed to failure because they lack the native ability. Conversely, many others who might succeed are not securing instruction because they or their parents or teachers are not aware of their possibilities in this line.

Recent investigations in experimental psychology indicate that musical talent is

inherited, the abilities being directly connected with the physiology and structure of the nervous system. Dr. Peter Sandiford of the University of Toronto, in his recent book, "Educational Psychology", makes a very positive statement concerning it:

"The ability to discriminate pitch is a native physiological capacity, which is independent of intelligence and training. Some people of perfectly normal hearing cannot distinguish pitch differences amounting to a half-tone; others can distinguish pitch differences as small as 1/200 of a tone. Since pitch discrimination is fundamental in music only those pupils who can discriminate between pitches differing on the average by 1/30 of a tone or less should attempt a thorough musical education." (12)

In this paper the writer is interested mainly in finding an answer to two questions. First, do the tests now being used measure musical talent? Second, are the results obtained valuable for prognosis and vocational guidance?

Scientific investigation in this field was begun more than thirty years ago by Dr. Carl E. Seashore, Professor of Psychology at the University of Iowa. (15) His findings have furnished the incentives for a considerable portion of the experimentation in this field since that time. He was guided in his experimentation by two hypotheses: first, every person has some degree of musical talent, probably distributed in the population in conformity to the curve of chance; second, musical capacity is not a single inherited capacity but is made up of numerous



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specific capacities, many of which are independent of one another. It was his belief that these capacities could be detected early in life, and he set himself to the task of devising tests for measuring them.

In making the inventory, Dr. Seashore attached great importance to two fundamental factors, the attributes of sound and the generally recognized powers of the mind. He recognized that all sounds have four attributes: pitch, intensity, duration and extensity. In classifying the factors of the musical mind he took cognizance of the traits which are necessary for the apprehension and expression of the recognized attributes of sound. He accordingly developed a technique for testing an individual's sensitiveness to pitch, time, intensity, consonance and tonal memory. (14)

### Method of Procedure

This study will summarize the data contained in the bibliography. The numbers in parentheses appearing throughout the text refer to the items bearing those numbers in the bibliography. Each test that has been used to measure musical talent will be carefully analyzed in an effort to find answers to the two questions appearing in the Introduction above.

### Classification of Tests

In general, two kinds of musical tests are now being used. Aptitude tests measure innate capacities. They are psychological measures and may be divided, for convenience, into three groups: sensory tests, feeling tests and motor tests. Achievement tests reveal what an individual has learned and what he is doing with his endowments. They are pedagogical measures.

The following tests have been used and will be analyzed here:

Sensory Tests

Seashore, Measures of Musical Talent. Schoen, Test of Relative Pitch and Rhythm. K-D Musical Tests.

Feeling Tests

Kwalwasser, Tests of Melodic and Harmonic Sensitivity. Schoen, Test of Tonal Sequence.

Motor Tests

Seashore, Tests of Motor Control.

Ream, The Tapping Test; a Measure of Motility.

Achievement Tests

There have been a number of successful attempts to measure accomplishment in music, but since this paper intends to deal only with the measurement of talent, no attempt will be made to analyze them. They will be of immense value in testing the validity and reliability of the measure of talent. A separate bibliography of achievement tests is appended for reference, and particular attention is called to a book by Dr. Jacob Kwalwasser, Professor of Music Education, Syracuse University.

### **Analysis of Individual Tests**

SEASHORE, MEASURES OF MUSICAL TALENT

- 1. Description. These tests were first used with individuals who were tested by means of special apparatus in a laboratory. They have since been refined and recorded on six 12-inch double-faced phonograph records, which may be used for group testing in school rooms and studios. A detailed description of each of the six tests follows:
- a. Pitch Discrimination. The subject is asked to listen to paired tones from tuning forks and judge whether the second tone is higher or lower than the first. The test consists of 100 trials which range in difficulty from tones differing in vibration frequency from 30 double vibrations down to 1/2 a double vibration. There are ten groups of ten trials each, all the pairs in a given group differing by the same number of vibrations. One criticism of the test is that it is too short and another is that it is not sufficiently discriminating. The first fifty trials are too simple and the last 50 are so difficult that frequently the person with superior talent fails to earn more than half right.
- b. Intensity Discrimination. Subject is instructed to listen to paired sounds and judge whether the second sound is weaker or stronger than the first. It consists of 100 trials and covers a wide range of intensity differences, controlled electrically by a buzzer. Critics say that it measures intensity of noises rather than intensity of musical tones; but practically all agree that the only variable element is intensity, which makes for validity.
- c. Sense of Time. The sense of time is measured by asking the subject to judge whether a second time interval is longer or

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shorter than the first, the intervals being marked off by clocks. The test consists of 100 trials involving discriminations of time intervals varying from 1.00 second to 1.20 seconds. Critics hold that a better test would be obtained from intervals filled with tone than from empty intervals, but there is no evidence to support this contention.

d. Sense of Consonance. The subject is instructed to judge on basis of smoothness, blending and purity whether the second pair of tones heard is worse or better than the first. The test consists of 50 items. It is considered the poorest test in the set as evidenced by the low coefficients of reliability. The criteria for judging which pair is better are conflicting and confusing and are often abandoned by the subject. Also, the time allowed to make the judgment is not sufficient.

e. Sense of Tonal Memory. The test consists of 50 trials representing five degrees of difficulty in increasing order. There are ten trials each of two-tone, three-tone, four-tone, five-tone and six-tone patterns. Every tonal pattern is repeated and in the repetition one tone is changed and the subject is asked to name the tone that was changed. In an effort to prevent giving the musically trained person an advantage, there is no melodic relationship between the tones.

f. Sense of Rhythm. The subject is instructed to listen to the paired patterns and judge whether the pair is the same or different. It consists of 50 items which increase in difficulty. Tone is eliminated from the test so that an individual trained in music would have no advantage. Since the test correlates highly with the test for tonal memory, it seems to involve considerable memory, but this does not invalidate the test.

2. How was the test standardized? The tests have been given several hundred times to school children and to students in the University of Iowa. The norms are presented in the form of percentile rank and are given for three groups, fifth grade, eighth grade and adults. Percentile ranks are obtained for each of the six traits measured and

are never combined or averaged together. Charts are provided for graphing the talent profile for each individual in terms of the percentage of correct responses. Dr. Seashore's book, "The Psychology of Musical Talent" contains much information about standardizing the tests.

3. How were the Tests evaluated? Dr. Stanton and Dr. Gaw have Validity. published some data bearing on the validity In both cases the of the Seashore tests. comparison was made between ratings on the tests and ratings by music teachers. There have not been published any comparison for persons of known musical proficiency who took the tests. This must be done before the tests can be accepted as valid tests in predicting future success in musical accomplishment. Furthermore, the case would be materially strengthened if a large number of persons were tested and followup records were kept in order to learn the degree with which the tests actually predict success.

b. Reliability. Ruch and Stoddard, in their recent book, published the following coefficients of reliability for the Seashore Tests:

Pitch	r equals	70
Intensity	30	66
Time	99	53
Consonance	9.9	-35
Memory	99	66
Rhythm	9.9	50

In all cases the probable error was sufficiently low that the coefficients are really significant and indicate a fair degree of reliability for three of the tests; but it is quite evident that the tests fall far short of the standard set for reliability of intelligence tests and educational tests. The coefficients are high enough however to indicate that measurement of musical talent holds much promise for scientifically trained investi-The intercorrelations among the gators. separate tests also support the contention of the author that musical talent is really made up of several specific abilities. is evidenced in the findings of Ruch and Stoddard:

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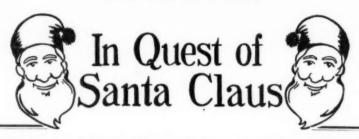
Schoen, Tests of Musical Feeling and Musical Understanding.

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- 1. Description. Dr. Max Schoen, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, has devised three tests which will be described separately.
- a. Relative Pitch. This test was given with the aid of a piano and has not been recorded. The experimenter plays in succession two different tones, followed by two other tones. The subject is asked to state whether the pitch interval between the second two tones is larger or smaller than the pitch interval between the first two tones. The test consists of 100 paired intervals, grouped into 10 series of 10 pairs each. The author began by giving the test to individuals but is now giving it to groups.
- Tonal Sequence. A test devised to reveal an individual's sensitivity for the fitness of the tones of a melody. The tests have not been recorded, so the experimenter plays four two-phrase melodies that were selected from standard compositions. plays the first phrase four times, each time following it with a different ending, one of which is the original ending. The other three endings are made up by the experimenter and carefully judged by a set of criteria, tho all three are inferior to the original. The subject is then asked to score each ending, 6 points for the best one, 4 for the next, 2 for the next and o for the poorest. The ratings thus secured are then compared with the experimenter's ratings. An individual's score is reckoned as a percentage of the total possible correct ratings. It is considered a good test of appreciation which measures aesthetic response objectively.
- c. Test of Rhythm. This is a test of one's sensitivity to slight variations in rhythmic patterns. It consists of 25 pairs of monotonic rhythmic phrases, each of

- which contains two fairly distinct patterns. The subject is called upon to judge whether the second phrase is the same or different from the first and if different, whether the change occurs in the first or second pattern of the repeated phrase. The phrases must be tapped on a table or sounded on a piano, and it is obvious that there are many possibilities for error in repeating the taps exactly the same way on successive trials. Critics point out that rhythm is the grouping of recurring time and intensity impressions, but that this test takes into account only one of the factors, namely time.
- 2. How were the tests standardized? The test of relative pitch was given to 233 elementary school children and to 194 high school and normal school students in and near Pittsburgh. Tables showing percentile rank are published for each group. The test of tonal sequence was given to 196 junior high school and 170 senior high school students in Pittsburgh and norms for each group are available in the form of percentile rank. The test of rhythm was given to large groups of fifth, sixth and seventh grade children in Pittsburgh. As in the two preceding tests the norms are in the form of percentile rank.
- 3. How were the tests evaluated? Validity. The only published data concerning the validity of these tests was that obtained from giving these three tests and some of the Seashore tests to ten private music pupils in Pittsburgh. Their ratings on the tests were compared with the ratings of their teachers as to their ability as music The author of the tests have published the following figures showing the amount of comparison between test ratings and teacher ratings: 49 exact agreements; 18 disagreements of one step; 3 disagreements of two steps. Nothing has been published that would indicate that persons of recognized musical ability would rank high on the tests, so from the scientific viewpoint nothing is known about the validity or reliability of the tests.



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KWALWASSER, TESTS OF MELODIC AND HARMONIC SENSITIVITY.

- 1. Description. Dr. Jacob Kwalwasser of Syracuse University, N. Y., has devised these tests in an attempt to measure an individual's ability to distinguish the good melodic progressions from the bad. They are played on the organ so as to control the matter of variation in dynamics, and the intensity of both tests is maintained uniformly, being recorded on a Victor record. The melodic sensitivity test consists of 35 different two-measure melodic progressions about equally divided as to merit. melodies are arranged in chance order as to merit, and increase in difficulty of discrimination from beginning to end. The harmonic sensitivity test is made up of 35 harmonic progressions employing the conventional four-part harmonization. It measures one's ability to distinguish good harmonic progressions from bad.
- 2. How standardized. The manual published by the Victor Talking Machine Company contains a percentile rank chart based on scores earned by 763 individuals representing ages 8 to 40. This number included 42 students in Teachers College, Columbia University, who were professional musicians or music supervisors.
- 3. How evaluated. No statistical studies have been reported showing the relationship between standing in the test and known ability in music.

SEASHORE, TESTS OF MOTOR CONTROL.

Dr. Seashore is of the opinion that "since musical ability is more or less the result of special training and since we desire to rate musical capacity before musical training is begun, we must analyze the required types of action and trace the fundamental capacities which may be isolated and studied under control." He lays special stress upon motility, timed action, response to simple signals, action upon choice, serial action, precision, strength and endurance. It is obvious that many of these motor responses have much to do with performance from the standpoint

of learning, but recent studies in experimental psychology would support the notion that there is some connection between these motor responses and musical talent. What the relationship is, has not been learned. As yet the tests are all in the experimental stage and no statistics are available on the reliability of such tests as measures of innate capacities.

REAM, THE TAPPING TEST: A MEASURE OF MOTILITY.

This experimenter carried on an extensive series of tests in the psychological laboratories at the University of Iowa, using the well known tapping test. The subject was asked to tap as many times as he could in five seconds for twenty such five-second periods. The amount of gain in either speed or regularity was slight. Individuals ranged from 20 to 60 taps per second. His experiments had value chiefly in the standardizing of the apparatus and the method of giving the test. The results of the test were not compared in any way with known musical proficiency and therefore have no diagnostic or prognostic value. The method seems likely to be of value but much experimenting will need to be done before information will be available which will enable one to predict musical ability.

K-D Music Tests (5)

At the present time Prof. Jacob Kwalwasser of Syracuse University and Prof. Peter W. Dykema of Teachers College are co-operating in the preparation of a new series of music tests to be put on phonograph records. It is an effort to carry forward the principles embodied in the Seashore tests and to meet the criticisms and overcome the weaknesses of those pioneer tests. They will attempt to measure ten powers or traits instead of six and will use 10-inch records instead of 12-inch, which will reduce the cost as well as the length of time required for giving. The powers or traits to be measured are pitch, intensity, time, rhythm, memory of related tones, quality discrimination, pitch aspects of notation, time aspects of



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notation, tonal movement, and melodic For all the tests except those for nitch and quality the items were first cut very accurately by means of calipers on niano-player rolls and then from the mechanically unvarying piano reproduction recorded on phonograph records. possible effort is being made to make the tests interesting to the children who are taking them and thus secure better motiva-The authors are proceeding on a sound scientific basis and will make every effort to standardize the tests and establish their validity and reliability. The tests are to be on Victor records and will be available in the fall of 1929.

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#### **Experiments Making Use of Music Tests**

SEASHORE, SURVEY OF MUSICAL TALENT

- 1. Description. This survey was attempted about 1919 for two reasons: first, to establish norms for the Seashore Measures of Musical Talent: and second, to evaluate the fitness of this testing material for discovering talent in the public schools. All the children in the fifth and eighth grades in Des Moines, Iowa, were given the Seashore tests by a number of graduate students from the University of Iowa under the direction of Dr. Seashore. The fifth grade was chosen because that is considered the earliest age at which children can take a reasonable part in group tests of this kind. The eighth grade was chosen because that is the age at which pupils begin definitely to specialize and a time when guidance yields the best results.
- 2. Results. a. Nature of reports. Very complete records and reports were made of the survey. For each individual tested the following information was recorded:

School Sex Grade Age

A key number (for identification)

Percentile rank in each item of the test. (five) Teachers' ratings on a five-point scale for Brightness

Singing Rhythmic action Pupil's self-rating on enjoyment of music Record of private lessons in clock hours and instrument.

These records were prepared in duplicate, one set being retained by the local school authorities and the other set retained by Dr. Seashore for further study at the University. Every effort was made to secure the kind of information that was needed for intelligent diagnosis of pupils' capacities and to record it in such a way as to make it most useful to the teachers and counsellors.

All the pupils' cards were grouped for convenience in handling and in giving guidance as the result of diagnosis. The grouping was done on the basis of the objective evidence from the tests alone, tho it was true that much subjective judgment entered into the grouping because the scores on the separate tests were not averaged. The other ratings listed above were secondary and used if doubt arose regarding individual cases. The following arbitrary divisions of groups was decided upon:

98	to	100%	Very superior
91	to	97	Superior
76	to	90	Excellent
51	to	75	Good
26	to	50	Fair
X	to	25	Poor and Undetermined

The following general recommendations were made regarding this grouping:

- a. First three groups should be given special encouragement; all are good enough for professional or other highly intensive training in music.
- b. Good and Fair groups advised and encouraged in accordance with the secondary information on the cards and other known facts.
- c. Poor and undetermined group should not take special training unless a re-examination reveals information not found in this series of tests.

The survey was considered of immense value in the field of measurement of musical talent in the following particulars:

a. Norms were established for the tests.

b. It was demonstrated that musical talent could be discovered by means of tests.

c. It certified absence of talent and prevented wasted effort and much drudgery for children.

d. It awakened teachers and parents to the possibilities of knowing definitely if children possessed talent; teachers' subjective judgments and parents' desires and ambitions did not agree with the test results in many cases.



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STANTON, PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS OF MUSICAL TALENT

- 1. Description. The most successful efforts that have been made to establish the validity of the music test were those of Dr. Hazel M. Stanton, psychologist at the Eastman School of Music in the University of Rochester. During a period of four years she gave the Seashore tests to all students. numbering into the thousands. The standings of the students in tests and the ratings of several teachers on their abilities were compared and a large amount of agreement was found. Dr. Stanton approached the problem in a scientific manner and so convincing were her results that the faculty became committed to the policy of using the tests as one of the entrance requirements.
- 2. Results. The students of that institution are divided into four groups according to the type of training they are seeking. Dr. Stanton handled the results of the tests in the light of the relation of these four groups to the general problems of instruction in the school. She has published the following results concerning the agreement between teacher's ratings and test results:

200 students: Exact agreement in Agreement within one step	38%	of	the	cases
Disagreement by two steps 218 students:	6%	37	22	29
Exact agreement	ATC	**	**	**
Agreement within one step	600%	22	11	22
Disagreement by two steps 99 students:	69% 3%	**	22	**

y students.					
	A	В	C	D	E
Test rating	9	37	45	8	0
Rating by Teachers	6	23	56	14	0
Rating by Director	2	33	50	12	2

A check up was made one year after the first testing and rating. It was found that 47% of the students who rated below average had remained in school during the year following the testing; also that 84% of those who rated high in tests had remained in school. Accordingly, the faculty of the school adopted the plan of testing all entering students with the following purpose in mind;

b. Reduce mortality by revealing the lack of talent before a student has spent time and money learning that.

 Encourage talented students to efforts in keeping with their abilities.

#### STANTON, INHERITANCE OF MUSICAL TALENT (17)

Dr. Stanton also made an extensive investigation of members of families of persons who were known to be of recognized success in the field of music. The study was made of persons in the East and Middle West and very good evidence was obtained in support of the belief that musical talent is inherited and may be detected. Among other devises she made use of the Seashore Tests. The results are not presented here, because that study was pertinent to this paper only because of the positive correlation found between rating on the tests and known musical proficiency. Dr. Stanton's investigation is highly important because she found much evidence that sensitivity to pitch, intensity, time and tonal memory are all basic and measurable. These two studies by Dr. Stanton have done much to establish the Seashore Tests and point the way for other experimenters in this field.

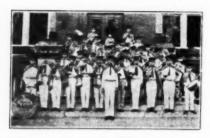
#### GAW, SURVEY OF MUSICAL TALENT IN A MUSIC SCHOOL (1)

Dr. Esther A. Gaw made a very intensive study of the musical capacities of 26 students in the School of Music at Northwestern University. She made use of the Seashore Tests and teacher ratings as well as intelligence tests and other measures. Her study was of little practical value because of the small number of students tested and because she used an average of eleven hours in testing each student. The results were not worth the time taken to secure the data. The ratings were not treated statistically, and consequently, little information was secured for testing the validity and reliability of the Seashore Tests.

#### Mosher, Group Method of Measurement of Sight Singing (6)

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up yo to lea by m problem for a doctor's dissertation the working out of a test to measure ability in sight singing. He compared the standings in the tests he devised with standings in the Seashore Tests. For about 450 students he secured the following correlation coefficients between the group achievement tests he used and the five divisions of the Seashore tests:

Time			. 36
Conso	nance		. 29
Pitch			-44
Memo	ry		-44
Intens	sity		.49

He concluded that measures of talent were not predictive of success in singing, altho the tests revealed that many pupils fall far short of what they are innately capable of doing. He recognized that very frequently less able pupils were more interested and consequently exerted themselves more and attained higher rank than others with superior ability.

#### General Conclusions

r. Investigations in the field of music have done much in producing scientific evidence that musical talent is not inherited as a single unity but as separate and specific capacities.

 The methods of measurement and the results of testing for musical talent have strengthened the belief that probably all special aptitudes are really composites of several specific capacities.

3. The several elements of musical talent that have been analyzed do not seem inter-related and inter-dependent.

4. Musical talent has actually been discovered in public school surveys; also pupils who were ambitious to achieve success in music have been found to be lacking in some very necessary native capacities.

5. The next step in validating music tests is to give them to persons of known musical proficiency and figure the correlations between actual success and standing in the tests.

6. Another important step is to follow up young people who rated high on the tests to learn how much they were able to profit by music through musical training.

7. Dr. Seashore's work is the only example so far of a really scientific attack of the problem. Even his results are not sufficiently conclusive, and the other studies will not warrant drawing definite conclusions as in scientific studies

8. Dr. Schoen's tests appear to measure native capacities but little contribution will be made to the field until they are standardized, particularly in administering, and the results treated scientifically.

9. The new tests being developed by Kwalwasser & Dykema give promise of being valid measures. Both are thoroughly familiar with the importance of the problem from the viewpoint of training in music, and, in addition, recognize the steps that must be taken to secure scientific measures.

tests alone will never be entirely reliable as a sole means of measuring talent or predicting success in music. Dr. Seashore himself urges that test results be used to supplement other information and observations.

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## Book and Music Reviews

Conducted by WILL EARHART, Director of Music, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Studies in Hymnology, by Mrs. Crosby Adams. Onward Press, Richmond, Va.

The grace of a spirit that has always dwelf with beautiful and fine preoccupations steals through the lines of this book. Usually the subject of hymnology has been a mine in which the antiquarian and the pedant seeking scraps of curious knowledge have scraped for nuggets. In this case it is made to seem more like a garden in which the blossoms still live and have fragrance. Sympathy and appreciation run, as always with Mrs. Adams, hand in hand with the eager intellect.

So, while there is a deal of information in the little book (though it is avowedly only an introduction to the subject) there is also that which makes the facts breathe the breath of life. Were I to counsel the student, I should tell him to read the many other sterling works on this subject that Mrs. Adams names in a list at the end of her book, but to read this one first, to the end that his imagination and affections be enlisted to bear him company the whole way.

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The book was written at the solicitation of members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church, to whom Mrs. Adams gave a series of five addresses on the occasion of a national meeting. Its object is to interest such bodies, and certainly all musical people, in a subject fascinating historically and of prime importance to those who would keep the music of the church truly devotional and pure. It forms an admirable textbook for the use of church schools, colleges, and amateur groups.

of church schools, colleges, and amateur groups.

There is a Foreword which is worth reading because of what it discloses of a lovely personality; some of the plates picturing "Musical Instruments of Bible Times," and six excellently written chapters. The Bible Foundations of Church Music; Early Church Music Up to the Reformation; The Far-Reaching Influence of the Reformation on Sacred Music; Metrical Psalmody; Old-Time Hymn-Singing; in Musical The Hymn and the Hymn-Times in the Hymn and the Hymn Times in the Hymn I

ing in America; The Hymn and the Hymn-Tune.

This is the last sentence of a fragrant book:
"And commit to memory both words and music
of scores of them, so that when the evening of life
is reached, the lofty sentiments will come trooping
to memory's storehouse and you will gather to your
soul spiritual and musical refreshment."

WILL EARHART

The Concert-Goer's Library of Descriptive Notes, by Rosa Newmarch. Oxford University Press, American Branch, New York.

A preceding volume of the Concert-Goer's Library of Descriptive Notes aroused a desire for succeeding volumes. This Volume II quickens a hope that nothing will conflict with the extension of the series until the entire range of all substantial music likely to be heard nowadays in concerts has been covered.

Such praise does not mean that something startlingly new awaits the reader. The title of the volumes describes their contents, and most concert-goers have read program notes—even some such good ones as those by Rosa Newmarch—before this. The value comes from assembling a wide range of excellent notes in a pocket-size volume. As an alternative to leaving them scattered in a long series of house-programs, playing hide-and-seek through the lines of many large-type advertisements, this plan is surely to be commended. There is now a fair chance that some concert-goer may find a description of a piece of music he is going to hear, before the opening bars compete for his attention.

I am astonished again at the amount of material given in so small and readable a book. This volume treats of more than thirty Wagnerian excerpts—the overtures, preludes, et cetera, and seven separate works, as, for example, the Kaisermarsch and the Siegfried Idyll—twenty-eight symphonic poems and fantasias that collectively represent sixteen composers, and twelve marches, collectively representing seven composers.

Of the informational value and charm in the author's writing I scarcely need speak. Few have written as interestingly and informingly and none more so.

It is interesting to note that by deliberate intention each volume contains miscellaneous groups of works. There is thus greater chance that one volume will contain many of the piecgs that might be presented in a single concert program.

WILL EARHART

The Mirick Method of Instrumental Instruction for Band with Orchestra Parts Ad Lib. Published by Gamble Hinged Music Co.,

Chicago, Illinois.

This publication contains ten lessons for instruments combined in any way, as far as lesson five. After the fifth lesson good results are dependent upon instrumentation to a large extent, since beginning at this point the structure is such that to work without bass and harmony instruments would be unsatisfactory. Any small group provided with basic instruments could profitably continue beyond the first few lessons. The material is interesting on the whole and worthy and splendid, readable editing. The publishers have used every precaution to assure us of a well put up series and, with this in mind, have provided a teacher's manual and a conductor's score.

The grading of material might, perhaps, be more satisfactory. It skips the usual space devoted to sustained tones and rests and starts directly with quarter notes. Little is done with rests except in a sight reading supplement. This supplement, by the way, contains some of the best material of the publication.

Books from this set might well be used for individual work, also.—Lee M. Lockhart.

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Appreciation Series for Beginning Orchestras, by Aileen Bennett. Gamble Hinged Music Co.

There seems to be a splendid idealism underlying this new series. Not only is the editing quite satisfactory but the Foreword and explanation which accompany each volume give that added aesthetic touch which is needed for children in young orchestras. Orchestras with a year's training should find the symphonic movements of this publication within their ability.

The contents, all by Haydn, include the First Movement and Minuet from the Surprise Symphony, Allegretto from the Military Symphony, Adagio-Allegro from Symphony No. 2, and Presto from the Farewell Symphony.—Lee M. Lockhart

Master Series for Young Bands. Pub. by G. Schirmer.

The twelve suites contained or to be contained in this edition are inspired, according to the publisher's note, by a desire to satisfy an insistent demand for band material comparable to the admirable Master Series for Young Orchestras edited by Dr. V. L. F. Rebmann. The Schumann Suite, which contains the same numbers as the orchestra edition, falls short of this ideal to an extent. The parts are thick and the arrangement heavy in general. While cues need not be played, the chances are that they will be and as a result many light melodies and figures find themselves befogged by lumbering saxaphones and other heavy members. Musically the results are not quite satisfactory. On the other hand, great care has been taken to keep the parts playable and interesting, and this in itself is a recommendation when we think of the progress of young students.

The Schumann Suite contains Soldier's March, Curious Story, The Merry Farmer, Träumerei, Little Romance and Hunting Song.

LEE M. LOCKHART

Handbook of Musical Terms, by Karl Wilson Gehrkens, Oliver Ditson Co.

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The volume should be most useful for any musician to have at hand and an indispensable help for the music student.—HULDAH JANE KENLEY.

The Chorusmaster, by Herbert Antcliffe. W. Paxton & Co., Limited, London. (E. B. Marks Music Co., N. Y.)

A seventy-eight page book having to do with the requirements and functions of the chorusmaster,

with an introductory note of commendation by Henry Coward, and an appendix containing a graded list of Part Songs, Oratorios, Cantatas, etc., and a useful list of books on various phases of musical study.

The choosing of voices, their distribution, and what shall be required of them; choir formation and administration; the relation between purposes and choice of material; time beating and conducting; the use of the orchestra; a balance between imitation of masters and personal independence; and a discussion of competition festivals, are among the discussions.

While the work lacks the inspiration and musical suggestiveness of such books as Coward's and Roberton's it is full of practical suggestions as to administrative details which have much to do with the success of a choir. For those with little experience it will be an excellent manual by which to check procedure and progress.—HULDAH JANE KENLEY

Stories of Wagner Operas for Children, by Elizabeth M. Wheelock. The Bobbs-

Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

The 1910 revision of the first edition of "Wagner Operas," with Tannhauser, Tristan and Isolde, and Parsifal added, and Rienzi omitted. In addition to those named it includes the stories of "The Ring," The Master Singers and the Flying Dutchman.

The stories are charmingly and simply told, with a delightful freshness of interest, and one need not be a child to wish she might have read them before her first adventures into Wagner Music Drama.

HULDAH JANE KENLEY

The Laurel S.A.B. Book, Armitage, Teachers' Edition. C. C. Birchard & Co.

The Student's Edition was reviewed in The Journal for March 1929. The judgment expressed there has been confirmed by summer school 'use. The addition of piano accompaniment has added musical interest and strength, as would be expected, and attractiveness and usefulness are increased by the book being made in quarto size.

HULDAH JANE KENLEY

Dieci Cori Antichi, (Ten Antique Choruses) for mixed voices, by G. Francesco Mali-

piero. C. C. Birchard & Co.

Malipiero's foreword follows: "I have divided this collection... into two parts. The first comprises; the Napolitana of Giovan Ferretti; the two Madrigali of Claudio Monteverdi and Antonio Lotti, and the Canzone of Benedetto Marcello. It is only in the Madrigali of Lotti that I was obliged to alter, in two or three places, the movement of the voices, because the author had added the bass in order to complete the harmony for the harpsichord. The other three choruses are a faithful reproduction of the original edition.

The second part comprises: the Madrigale of Luzzasco Luzzaschi, the Song of Francesco Provenzale, the Song of Alessandro Stradella, the Lamento Giovanni Battista Bassani, the Madrigale of Guiseppi Sarti, and the Canzonetta of Baldassare Galuppi. These six choruses in origin were for one voice and bass and have been reduced by me for four voices; in doing so I have tried to preserve the purity of style without sacrificing the vivacity of

the rhythm.'

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WILSON G. SMITH, Music Critic The Cleveland Press

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Of these unaccompanied choruses three, in the first volume, are for five voices, two requiring two tenors, one requiring two basses. Two are long and tenors, one requiring two basses. Two are long and somewhat difficult, both tonally and rhythmically, with rather more extended range than is wise for High School singers, especially when difficulty de-mands repeated effort. This volume would, however, be grateful material for study in an advanced or specially capable choir interested in serious work.

The second volume seems, on close examination, a most desirable addition to available material for ambitious students of choral material of beauty, of great historic interest, or illustrative of types all too difficult to find in usable form in appreciative

study of styles and periods.

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The Madrigals are generally less difficult than the English ones of the sixteenth century: in tonality, in independence of parts and in conflicting rhythms, being marked by frequency of common points of repose for all voices. The Canzoni are charmingly vocal, of particular value in the development of a flexible, running tone-line; the Bassani Lamento is characterized by melodic beauty in all parts, by an emotional poignancy which yet leaves its classic dignity intact, and by a fineness which would compel

ensitiveness of performance.

High School leaders whose groups are interested in "something different" will be well repaid by an

examination of this volume.

HULDAH JANE KENLEY

#### Choral Material

Standards for Public School choral material were somewhat fully discussed in The Journal for March, 1929. Most briefly stated they include: limited vocal range, singable intervals, flowing rhythms, beauty in both music and text, and purity of style. Of the material submitted the following numbers reach or approach such standards.

Boston Music Company.

A Medley of Negro Spirituals, arranged by

By an' Bye; O, Adam, Where are You? . .; Dere's a Man Goin' Roun'; I Got a Robe.

The bass drops, and the tenor rises, to G, necessitating a certain maturity in the voices; the vocal lines are singable, the harmony and general treatment sympathetic and in negro character. There are thirty pages in all, as worthy of place on a program of distinction, as are the spirituals with

which Roland Hayes moves his serious audiences.

The Arthur P. Schmidt Company.

Nymphs and Fauns, Air by Rameau, adapted

and arranged by Paul Ambrose.

A trio for women's voices, simple and unassum-ing, but vocal, unspoiled in the adaptation, with delicate feeling. This is the kind of thing it is pleasant to use as a beginning number in the Girl's Glee Club, though it is worth placing on programs

The Oxford University Press.

Rounds and Canons by Beethoven. A fascinating collection to be desired by all teachers for both historic and musical interest. Teachers of sight singing will find it a fine point of departure in polyphonic reading.

The Oxford Series of Bach Arias, arranged and edited by W. G. Whittaker.

A series of twenty-two arias from the various

church cantantas: seven for soprano; four for contralto; six for tenor and five for bass. This is a mine of valuable vocal material of varying grades of difficulty, for study and reference. Much of it is over-difficult for immature voices, but its observation and study by the many during its performance by the gifted few will make the vocal style of Bach as familiar as that of Handel or Mendelssohn.

Each Aria has an introductory page of authoritative information and analysis as to original purpose, instrumentation, cues and editorial treatment.

C. C. Birchard & Company.

Linger, Lady, for a While, by Reginald Redman. A simple song for Soprano and Alto, gay and sparkling, yet legato, and with an unusually melodic alto part. There is directness of style and freshness alto part. There is directness of style and freshness of quality. Easy enough for Junior High School use.

Wynken, Blynken and Nod, by F. F. Beale.

For Treble voices in Three Parts.

Well written, with interesting alternation of melody between voices, expressive chromatic and rhythmic treatment. Its dedication to the Women's Glee Club of The College of Idaho indicates adult usage, but an average chorus of High School girls could do well with it.

For the many who seem to like their Stevenson sung it will be acceptable.

The Nightingale, by Tchaikowsky, arranged by Morten J. Luvaas.

(S. S. A. A.)

The Morning Star, Choral by Philipp Nicolai, arranged by Morten J. Luvaas.

(S. S. A. A.) (Dedicated to the Academy Girl's Chorus, Erie, Pa.)

He who cannot find the material to suit his need is fortunate to know immature voices, musical literature and the technique of music-writing well enough to choose the appropriate masterpiece and adjust it to his situation. That it fills the wants of

The Nightingale is a lovely, quiet bit of writing, with no apparent effort for effects, but with fine development to a natural climax. The words are by Florence Gebhardt-Ormsbee and are well suited

to the music.

The Morning Star is just the song needed now and then by High School and College Glee Clubs for a chapel service. The Alto part will need real alto

Song of May, by George Herbert Jones.

For Soprano and Alto voice, with piano accom-

A spontaneous and simple spring song, well suited to the Junior High School chorus.

A Sailor Song, Sir Arthur Sullivan in The Mikado, arrnged for Soprano, Alto and Bass; a good Junior High School chorus number.

Hark, Hark, the Lark, Franz Schubert.

Arranged for Soprano, Alto and Bass by Ralph L. Baldwin.

This is the 1914 edition of the fine song, but we may need a reminder of its availability.

Bendemeer's Stream, Irish Folk Tune, arranged

by Gladys Pitcher.

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The series can best be described by quoting from

the Foreword thereto, by Mr. Maddy.

"The Master Series for Young Bands is the result of an insistent demand on the part of school band directors and music supervisors for an edition of school band music similar in quality to the Master Series for Young Orchestras, so admirably edited by Dr. V. L. F. Rebmann and arranged by Mr. Tom Clark, to whom credit for the compilation of the suites is gratefully acknowledged."

The purpose of this series is to supply this need with virtually the same suites as embodied in the Master Series for Young Orchestras, exceptions being made in the case of compositions not lending

themselves well to band performance.

The music is well within the capabilities of the average high school band, and is so arranged that all parts are interesting and melodious, while the ranges of the various instruments are kept within easy

"The twelve suites are scored for full, or "symphonic" band, as established by the Music band, as established by the Music Supervisors National Conference and accepted by professional bands everywhere as the ideal for which all bands should strive. However, by virtue of a carefully planned system of cues, the music may be played effectively by smaller combinations of in-

struments. "A conductor's part is provided, consisting of a six-line synoptic score in which the melody appears alone on the top stave, the Wood-wind on the second and third staves, the Brass-parts on the fourth and fifth staves and the Percussion-parts on the lowest This score arrangement has the advantage of being playable on the piano, either the Woodwind parts or the Brass-parts or both on two pianos; is therefore easier to read (for all transpositions are eliminated in the score); easier to teach (for it is only necessary to step to the piano and play doubtful parts); and less expensive than full

"Every effort has been made to meet, in this series, the conditions which prevail in the school band, and at the same time to provide a wealth of material of the highest musical value."

This description will give some idea of the scope

of the series.

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Numbers 2, (Bach Suite); 3, (Grieg Suite), and 9, (Schubert Suite) are the only issues which I have before me at this time. There are twelve suites in before me at this time. There are twelve suites in all, (the other nine are: Schumann, Classic Dances. Weber, Händel, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Hayden, Mozart and Tschaikowsky Suites), and after having examined the three which are before me I shall not rest content until I have seen the other nine.

There is a strong temptation to rhapsodize over these numbers, but I feel that if I say that they

measure up to the standard of excellence that was the outstanding feature of the Master Series for

Young Orchestras I have said enough.

The selection, editing, arranging and physical make-up is perfect. There may be several of the individual numbers of some of the suites which, to my mind, are too delicate in character to find in the band a proper vehicle of expression, but they are few in number, and, it may be that my notion of their unsuitability for band may have been fostered by the style of playing exhibited by most of the bands which I have had the (mis?) fortune to hear.

Nothing that I have so far encountered for the use of school bands can begin to measure up to the numbers in these suites. Pure, simple, straightforward tunes; easy to play, yet possessing all the true, musical qualities and cultural elements which are to be expected in works by such masters as are

represented here.—Otto Merz

Pochon Album for School Orchestra, by Alfred Pochon. Carl Fischer, Inc.

This album contains twenty-five numbers of a very high degree of excellence arranged in a manner to provide material of especial value for use by an elementary school orchestra of average ability

There is nothing trivial, cheap or banal about any of these numbers. They are music of a high type, much superior to that usually offered in "Easy Albums" and "Beginner's Folios," and the fact that among the names represented by the composition are: Beethoven, Bach, Hayden, Händel, Brahms, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Carelli and Gluck will be sufficient evidence of the extraordinary quality of the material used.

The arrangements are well done. There is good contrast and perfect balance throughout, and the general purpose and scope of the book are decidedly more artistic than is usual in books intended for orchestras of such limited technical capabilities as will be sufficient to properly interpret these numbers.

None of the parts are in any way difficult; the clarinet and trumpet (or cornet) parts are all in B flat; there are parts for the different saxophones; four distinct violin parts, all in the first position, and the piano part is not so difficult but that any school can readily find a pupil with ability enough to play it readily

In addition to the four first position violin parts there is an "Advanced Violin" part, which makes use of the third position and will prove to be "just the thing" to keep the more advanced players (a few of which are always to be found in a young orchestra) from losing interest because the "music is too easy.

This is in every way a good collection of compositions which will not only furnish recreation and pleasure for the young musicians, as well as provide dignified, serious and beautiful material for public performance; but will also prove a valuable aid to the acquisition of orchestral routine and the development of style, expression and musicianship.

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Rhythmic Ensemble Band-Books—The Folk Tune Book, Angela Diller and Kate Stearns Page. G. Schirmer, Inc.

This is an altogether useful and delightful collection, the second of the series. The first, "The Schubert Book," has been reviewed in a former number of the Journal.

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instrume Mr. I can resis of the op of Ferral This set includes a piano score, a conductor's score, a song book, and part books for triangle, drum,

tambourine, and cymbals.

Whichever method one uses, it is charming material. If the listening method is used, the children making their own scores, the songs are attractive to use while the scores will be helpful to the teacher in stimulating right responses. If, on the other hand, one uses the score and conductor with older children who have already experienced the other method, these scores are most carefully and musically made, so that the instruments may bring out the form, phrasing, modulation, nuance, etc., of the music.

Like the beginner's piano book, "Off We Go," previously reviewed, similarity of phrase, repetition and sequence are indicated by placement on the page

facilitating early visualisation of form.

SUSAN T. CANFIELD

Tunes for Two, by Dorothy Gaynor Blake. The Willis Music Co.

The author, believing in duet playing as an essential and stimulating part of the beginner's experience, developing rhythmic precision, has mitten "Eight Piano Duets." She has not, in this instance, written for Pupil and Teacher, but by limiting the scope of both primo and secondo to five finger position she has written for Pupil and Pupil of equal achievement. The duets are for the "near

The scores are accompanied by charts above the tunes "correlating the notes with the piano keys and showing the exact finger position for each piece." There are also separate treble and bass clef charts to stand behind the keyboard. To the reviewer the difference in eye line between the music on the music stand and the upright charts back of the keyboard appears to lessen the value of the charts for immediate transference, altho' used for reference in the absence of the teacher they may prove valuable.

The first four of the duets are particularly nice

in harmonization and atmosphere.

SUSAN T. CANFIELD

A Study of Mozart's Last Three Symphonies, by A. E. F. Dickinson. Oxford University Press, American Branch, New York. One of two recent additions to "The Musical Fligrim," this booklet is a distinct contribution to the series

It opens with a justification of analysis as an aid to imaginative listening, a justification which will ladden a teacher's heart while it answers many queries of the young student or amateur who dislikes to "dissect" beauty. The author is convinced that "most people permanently miss the finer and more imaginative aspects of art unless they are pointed out." A concise comparison of the three symphonies and a discussion of the principles of analysis preface a loving as well as detailed study of each symphony.

A delight to the amateur listener is the attention given to orchestral coloring, suggestions for recognition of timbre and hints to help in distinguishing

instruments within their own groups.

Mr. Dickinson writes with a lure. What student can resist the impulse to compare Mozart's handling of the opening theme of the Jupiter Finale with that of Ferrabosco, of Bach and of Brahms.

SUSAN T. CANFIELD

Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, by J. A. Fuller-Maitland. Oxford University Press, American Branch, New York.

The second of the late additions to "The Musical Pilgrim," this little book is packed with information concerning these six famous concertos and their adaptations.

Obsolete instruments are explained, bits of history and anecdotes are recalled while the conductor and performer are reminded of traditional readings.

The booklet closes with some comparisons of the concerto form as used by Bach with the classical sonata of which it was an important forerunner while the romantic quality of the slow movements is most sympathetically suggested.

It is a delight to be guided through a hearing of these concertos by so thorough a student of Bach.

SUSAN T. CANFIELD

Rhythm Lessons, by William Currier Atkinson. Emil Ascher, Inc.

This little booklet is filled with a great number of facts about music, knowledge of which, on the part of the student, is quite often taken for granted by the teacher.

I have found, in my experience, quite a number of what would otherwise be fairly good performers who were woefully lacking a proper understanding of the rudimentary essentials treated of in this booklet, and I quite agree with Mr. Atkinson when he remarks in his preface: "Although this book was designed for beginners in music, the author feels sure that there are those who have played for several years, but who are still encountering much trouble with that all important phase of music which we call rhythm."

As mentioned above, I have encountered this situation innumerable times in my work with young orchestras and bands, and have often been compelled to use valuable time that could have been employed to good advantage for the benefit of the whole ensemble, in teaching individual members the things

which are explained in this book.

Mr. Atkinson begins at the very beginning, with the relative values of the different species of notes; explains "measures," "bars," "time signatures" and "tempo markings" and finishes with diagrams and explanations of the gestures used by a conductor when beating the various kinds of "time."

Every member of an orchestra or band, and, in fact, every performer, whether instrumental or vocal, must be thoroughly familiar with the material contained in this book. If this knowledge is lacking, proper rendition of a composition, especially in ensemble, will be troublesome, to say the least.

This is a good book for the student to study, and I think it will do no harm to the teacher. It will remind him, (the teacher) of a lot of little points about rhythm that he often does not explain thoroughly because he presumes that every player in the orchestra or band has learned them when learning to play his instrument.—Offo Merz

Melodic Foundation Studies for Violin, by Russell Webber. Clayton F. Summy Co.

A good book for young beginners on the violin. The exercises are in melodic form, and quite a few have an accompanying part for second violin, or piano. One could wish for more of these accompany-

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ing parts, as they not only create interest in the work, but also serve to awaken the pupils' consciousness of the harmonic background upon which the melodies are founded.

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new problem as it is presented.

In the beginning Mr. Webber divides the work of the two hands, giving the right and left separate preparatory training, thus permitting the student o focus his mind on one hand at a time, until the

two can be combined without stiffness.

The system of placing the fingers uniformly on all strings has been adopted. This lightens the burden for the left hand, as the student needs to learn to place the fingers in one position on each of the four drings, but this will of course necessitate the intronetion of chromatic signs quite early in the book; sharp and f sharp therefore are encountered some considerable time before c and f natural appear. Whether this is, or is not desirable will depend upon whether the teacher is, or is not familiar with that method of teaching the violin. Some teachers prefer to reach all natural notes first, relying on the pupil's ear for correct finger placement. Both methods are being employed, and it is largely a Both matter of personal preference which plan is adopted.

A teacher who is conversant with the uniform placement method, will find this an admirable book to use with young students either individually or in

18808.—OTTO MERZ

An Illustrated Dictionary of Modern Musical Instruments, by Welford D. Clark. Hall & McCreary Company.

This book, though small, is packed full of just the information that should be in the hands of every

member of a band or orchestra.

As may be inferred from it's title, it treats of the instruments in use in bands and orchestras, giving a clear, concise description of each instrument together with an illustration of the same, showing in detail the characteristic features of practically every type of modern instrument.

It is a small-sized book, which can be readily slipped into any pocket, or in an instrument case, and thus be available for instant reference as the

need may arise.

It is intended primarily for members of instru mental groups, who should be able to indentify all the common musical instruments and know something of their uses, qualities and possibilities, and it ves this purpose most acceptably.

It covers all of the instruments in common use; illustrates most of them; tells how they produce musical tones; gives their ranges, their uses in an orchestra and how many of each type are used.

It includes diagrams showing suggested scating plans for orchestras and bands, and charts indicating effective combinations of instruments according to the number of players available, and is, in every respect decidedly comprehensive, interesting and instructive.—Otto Merz

Folios and Collections for Orchestra and Band,

issued by various publishers.

I have received quite a lot of these albums, folios, ollections and books of various types; but, in the ase of books for orchestra I have only the first riolin part, while books for bands are represented y the Solo cornet part only.

This means that I have only a table of contents of each book. It will be impossible to really review them, as the vital element of an orchestra or band composition, namely the "arrangement," can not be judged by examining merely the part for one instrument.

However, as the books are here, I will mention them, giving of each the impression conveyed by the part sent for review.

If the respective publishers should be disappointed because of the brevity of these notices, it is to be hoped that they will profit by experience. and in the future send complete sets of parts for

Epperson's Beginners Combination Band and Orchestra Folio. (H. T. Fitz Simons.) The very name of this folio tends to create an unfavorable predisposition to it's contents. I have never met with a collection of music that was equally effective for either band or orchestra separately, and would also prove acceptable for both groups in combination, and it is with secret misgivings that I turn the title page to examine what is within.

The first two pages consist of preparatory exercises such as are found in most beginner's books. As I have only the solo cornet book I have no means of knowing whether these exercises are in unison, or whether the other instruments have harmonic accompanying parts. After these exercises "Yankee Doodle" makes it's appearance. Then follorder: "Our Pride March," "Daisy Waltz," Then follow, in ward March" and so on throughout the book.

If this is the type of music the leader of the band is looking for, he will find it here in good measure.

Brockton Band Book. (Carl Fischer, Inc.)— This contains sixteen compositions for school bands, consisting of seven marches, a patrol, two fox-trots, two waltzes, a serenade, and an ante religioso and two overtures.

Judging by the Solo Cornet part, I would say that the best and most useful numbers in this book are the marches. The overtures are negligible, the waltzes rather commonplace and banal, while the serenade and the andante religioso may be quite worth while, depending on the manner in which they are harmonized and arranged.

The marches, however, look decidedly promising for a young band. The melodies are of a fairly good type, not startingly original, but wholesome and clean cut. The solo cornet part is easy to play, and. if the arrangements measure up to the melodies, the marches in this book will be very good material for a young, inexperienced band to use for football games, parades or similar occasions.

Ascher's Advanced Band Books, No. 1 and No. 2. (Emil Ascher, Inc.)—There is a marked improvement in the quality of the material used in these books over that which went into the Beginner's Band Book reviewed above. There are a few mediocre numbers included, (which is perhaps unavoidable and to a certain extent excusable in a "collection"), but on the whole there is quite a good proportion of worth while material to be found in these books.

If the arrangements are sensible and musicanly, both these books will provide instruction and enter tainment for the school band, especially in the earlier stages of it's development.



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to the the hor Ascher's Concert Folio for Ochestra; Ascher's Assembly Orchestra Book, No. 1; Ascher's Program Series for Junior Orchestras, Vol. 1; Ascher's Ascher's Acher's Books, Nos. 4 and 5; Ascher's Folios of Concert Favorites, Nos. 1 and 2; Ascher's Overture Book, No. 1. (All published by Emil Ascher, Inc.)—In these books there is evidence that Emil Ascher, Inc. has "seen the light." There is a great improvement, one might say a revolution in the choice of material which has been used in the compilation of these books as compared with the contents of the earlier Ascher Orchestra Books, and if the style of the arrangements parallels the quality of the compositions used, these books will prove welcome additions to the school orchestra's library.

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The Concert Folio is the least desirable member of this group of books. There are still vestiges of the old style orchestra music to be discerned among it's contents, but there is one redeeming feature about it, namely: it does not contain an "Overture." These overtures, with their trivial melodies and cheap harmonies, were always to be found on the last pages of the folios of by-gone days. If the author was ambitious, he had two overtures at the end of the book, with a medley of either "Southern Songs," "Patriotic Melodies" or "Operatic Tunes" in the middle of the book, sandwiched between a "Henrietta Waltz" and an "Elsie Schottische" or some other equally absurd combination.

These features are almost entirely lacking in this "Concert Folio," and their absence is indicative of the improvement of this book over the earlier publications of the Ascher Company.

The Assembly Orchestra Book, No. 1, consists entirely of material that is of good quality, and has the proper educational motivation desirable in music for young orchestras. A good book for a Junier High School Orchestra.

Program Series for Junior Orchestras, Vol. 1, consists of lighter compositions suitable for a fairly good elementary school orchestra. Will furnish good practice material and recreational numbers for the young musicians.

Advanced Orchestra Books, Nos. 4 and 5 are well adapted to follow the book mentioned above. There are quite a few standard compositions in their tables of contents, and the original compositions are of the same degree of merit as are the numbers of the better known composers.

The contents of Folios of Concert Favorites, Nos. 1 and 2, are made up entirely of numbers by the masters and other recognized composers of the best type of music. The names of Dvorak, Saint-Saens, Brahms and Wagner among many others of equal tank will serve as a guarantee of the sterling qualities of the compositions which go to make up these

Overture Book, No. 1, contains ten of the lighter, well known standard overtures, all of them by composers who rank high among musicians; and none of them have been used extensively in other collections. They will provide new material which will be of great benefit to the technique as well as the musical perception of the members of the orchestra, and can be profitably introduced as soon as they can take care of the technical difficulties involved in playing them.

I wish I had the full orchestration of these newer Ascher Albums, as it would be interesting to ascertain whether the arrangement is equal in merit to the selection of material included in compiling the books.—Otto Merz

TESTS BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 81)

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